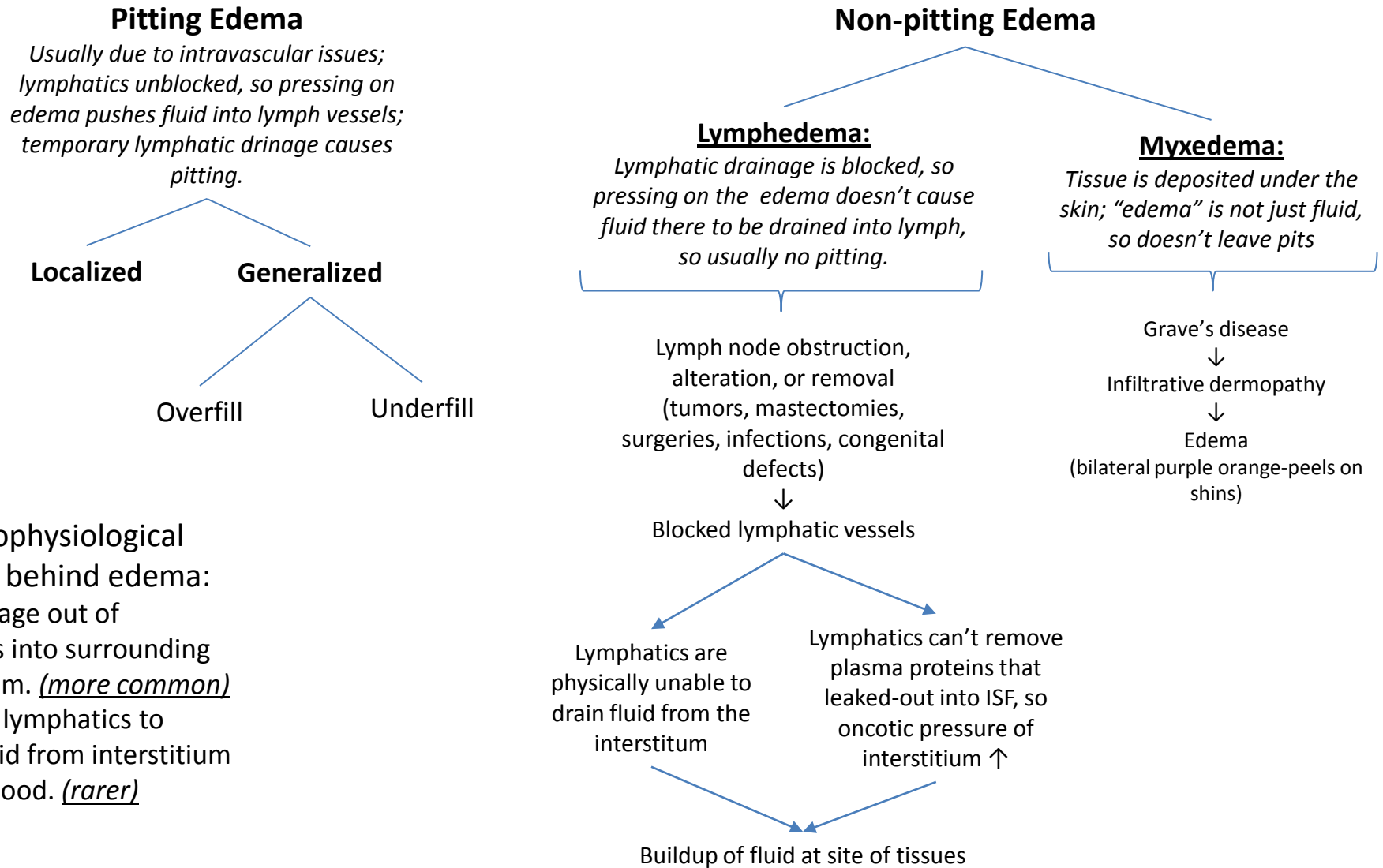


Edema

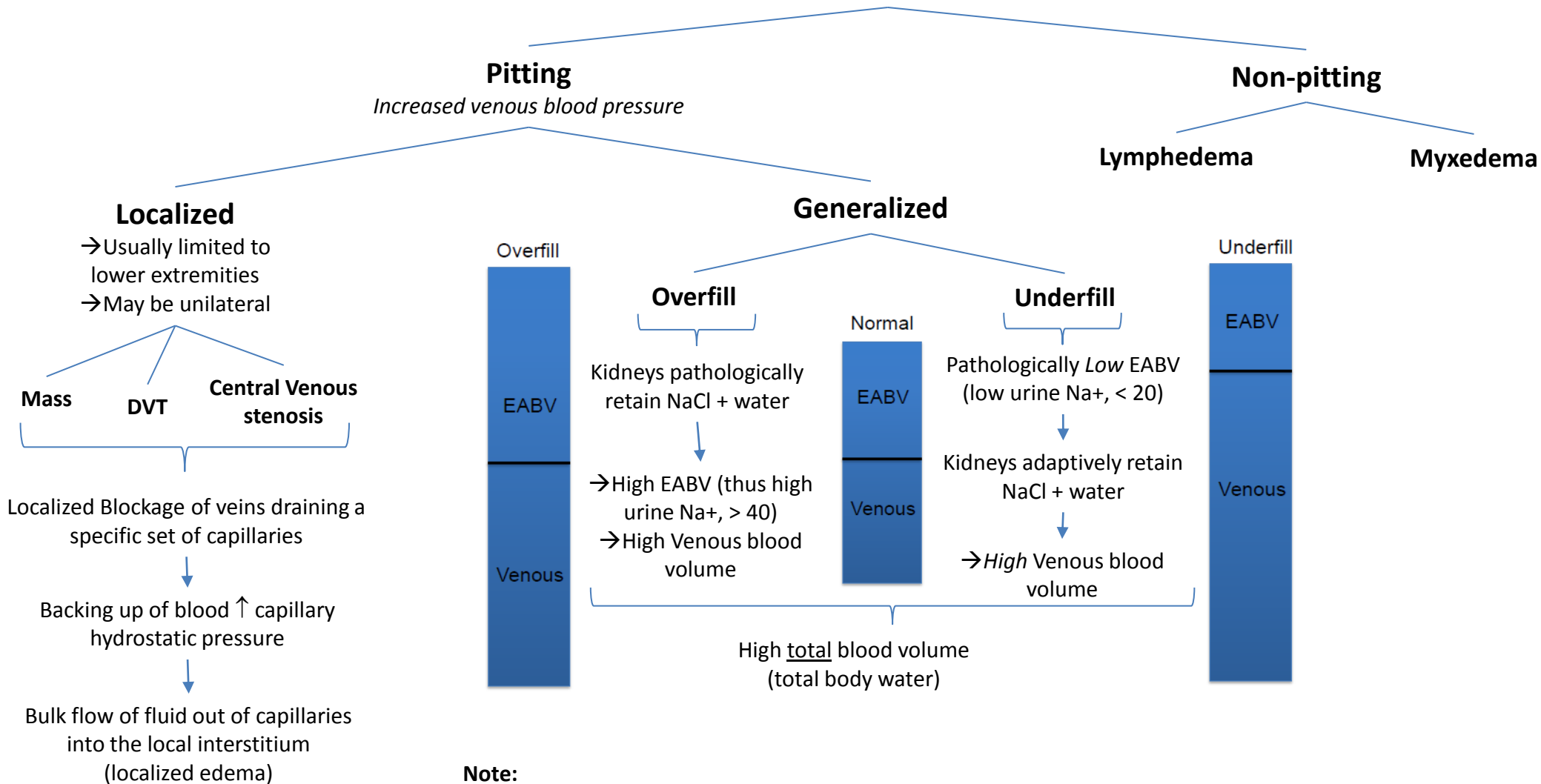
Excess fluid accumulation in the Extracellular/interstitial spaces



2 basic pathophysiological mechanisms behind edema:

1. Fluid leakage out of capillaries into surrounding interstitium. (more common)
2. Failure of lymphatics to return fluid from interstitium back to blood. (rarer)

Edema: Excess fluid accumulation in the Extracellular/interstitial spaces



Note:

- Arteries “autoregulate” the bloodflow into the capillaries with pre-capillary sphincters, keeping capillary hydrostatic pressures constant (arterial hypertension doesn’t cause edema).
- The venous system has no autoregulation, so high venous blood volume/pressure can back up into the capillaries and increase hydrostatic pressure, causing edema.

Abbreviations:

EABV = effective arterial blood volume
RAAS = renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system

Edema: Excess fluid accumulation in the Extracellular/interstitial spaces

