

# Biggest organ discovered

## 科学家发现人体最大的器官

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导读：你或许会想当然地认为皮肤是人体最大的器官，然而科学家们近期却有了新发现……

n. 解剖，分解  
You might think that after centuries of research into the **anatomy** there isn't much we don't know about the human body. But if the authors of a new paper published in Scientific Reports on March 27 are right, scientists have overlooked something big. In fact, they may have missed something really big: the largest organ in our body.

你也许会认为，在研究解剖学几个世纪后，我们已经对人体几乎无所不知。然而，如果《科学报告》杂志3月27日的一篇论文的作者所言正确的话，科学家们一直都忽略了一件重要的事情。事实上，他们也许忽略了一件相当重要的事情——人体最大的器官。



A scientist points out the location of the interstitium in the human body. CFP

Researchers from New York University's School of Medicine concluded that a "fluid-filled network of spaces" is spread throughout the human body. It's under the skin, between our organs, around blood **vessels**, and along the tissue between muscles, according to the researchers. They call this network an organ – the **interstitium**. 间质组织；  
n. 血管 ( vessel 的名词复数)

纽约大学医学院的研究者们发现了一种遍布人体全身的、充满液体的结缔组织。研究者们表示，这种组织位于皮肤表面之下、我们的器官之间、围绕着血管并且沿着肌肉之间的组织分布。他们称其为间质组织。

n. [生]组织；  
Scientists didn't find the organ for years due to the way they typically study human body **tissue**. They treat tissue samples with chemicals and look at the samples under a microscope. But during this process the fluid is lost, causing the interstitium to collapse. The researchers discovered these fluid-filled spaces by using a new imaging technique, which allows them to examine living tissue on a **microscopic** level.

多年来，由于科学家们研究人体组织的常用方法存在问题，他们一直没有发现这 <sup>adj. 显微镜的</sup> 器官。他们先用化学物质处理组织样本，然后将其置于显微镜下观察。然而在这个过程中，组织中的液体流失，导致间质也随之分解。通过使用一种新的成像技术，研究者们发现了这些由液体组成的组织，这使得他们能够在显微镜下检验活体组织。

n. 病理学家；  
Our skin, until now considered to be the largest human organ, accounts for about 16 percent of our body mass. But Neil Theise, a **pathologist** at NYU Langone Health in New York and co-author of the study, told CNN that the interstitium is bigger by 4 percent, making up 20 percent of the body's volume. This "is equivalent to about 10 **liters** in a young adult," Theise said.  
n. 升 ( liter 的名词复数)

直到现在，占人体16%的皮肤仍然被视为人体最大的器官。但是，纽约大学朗格尼医学中心的病理学家、该研究的合著者之一的尼尔·泰泽在接受CNN采访时表示，间质占人体体积的20%，比皮肤还多4%。这“相当于一个年轻人体内含有10升这样的液体，”泰泽说道。

The study's authors say the interstitium's job is to protect the organs of the body, like a **shock absorber**. It also carries **lymph**, the fluid which contains infection-fighting white blood cells.  
减震器 n. 淋巴 ( 液 ) ；

该研究的作者表示，间质的作用是保护人体的器官，就像一个“减震器”一样。间质同时也运输着淋巴液，其中含有抗感染的白细胞。

n. ( 尤指皮肤上的 ) 皱纹 ( wrinkle 的名词复数) 四肢  
These findings, if they gain acceptance, promise a better understanding of questions such as why our skin **wrinkles** as we get older, why our **limbs stiffen**, and how certain diseases spread in humans. The interstitium may also help to explain why cancers that start in one place can move to other parts of the body.

这些发现如果获得认可的话，人们有望对一些问题有更深入的认识，比如，为什么随着年龄的增长我们的皮肤会起皱纹，为什么我们会四肢僵硬，某些疾病是如何在人体内扩散的。间质也许也可以解释为什么癌细胞可以在人体内转移。

n. 针灸 ( 疗法 ) ；  
According to Business Insider, the new organ may also shine some light on the success of techniques like **acupuncture**.

据商业内幕网报道，这种新器官或许也为针灸等技艺的成功带来一些启示。

The possibility that this network of spaces is a new organ reveals that in spite of how advanced modern medicine is, we still have a long way to go. 网状组织是种新器官的可能性表明，无论现代医疗多么先进，我们还有很长的一段路要走。



(Translator & Editor: Wang Xingwei AND Ji Yuan)  
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辞海拾贝

<b>Anatomy</b>	解剖学	<b>Blood vessels</b>	血管
<b>Interstitium</b>	间质	<b>Microscope</b>	显微镜
<b>Imaging</b>	成像	<b>Pathologist</b>	病理学家
<b>Volume</b>	体积	<b>Equivalent</b>	等同的
<b>Lymph</b>	淋巴液	<b>Wrinkles</b>	起皱纹
<b>Limbs stiffen</b>	四肢僵硬	<b>Acupuncture</b>	针灸

