

Effect of thermal radiation on MHD flow of blood and heat transfer in a permeable capillary in stretching motion

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Abstract In this paper, a theoretical analysis is presented for magnetohydrodynamic flow of blood in a capillary, its lumen being porous and wall permeable. The unsteadiness in the flow and temperature fields is caused by the time-dependence of the stretching velocity and the surface temperature. Thermal radiation, velocity slip and thermal slip conditions are taken into account. In order to study the flow field as well as the temperature field, the problem is formulated as a boundary value problem consisting of a system of nonlinear coupled partial differential equations. The problem is analysed by using similarity transformation and boundary layer approximation. Solution of the problem is achieved by developing a suitable numerical method and using high speed computers. Computational results for the variation in velocity, temperature, skin-friction co-efficient and Nusselt number are presented in graphical/tabular form. Effects of different parameters are adequately discussed. Since the study takes care of thermal radiation in blood flow, the results reported here are likely to have an important bearing on the therapeutic procedure of hyperthermia, particularly in understanding/regulating blood flow and heat transfer in capillaries.

List of symbols

η	Dimensionless distance
u	Velocity of blood along the axis of the capillary
v	Transverse velocity of blood in the capillary
T	Temperature of blood at any point in the capillary
u_s	Velocity-slip at the wall
U_w	Stretching velocity
V_w	Injection/suction velocity
T_w	Surface temperature
T_s	Thermal slip
$B(t)$	Time-dependent magnetic field intensity
$k_1(t)$	Time-dependent permeability parameter of blood
k_2	Constant permeability of the medium
k_3	Non-dimensional permeability parameter
q_r	Radiative heat flux of blood
k	Thermal conductivity of blood
N	Velocity-slip factor
K	Thermal-slip factor
M	Hartmann number of the blood mass
A	Unsteadiness parameter
Nr	Radiation parameter
S_f	Non-dimensional velocity-slip factor
S_r	Non-dimensional thermal-slip factor
Pr	Prandtl number
S	Injection/Suction parameter
ρ	Density of blood
σ	Electrical conductivity of blood
ν	Kinematic coefficient of viscosity of blood
c_p	Specific heat at constant pressure
σ^*	Stefan-Boltzmann constant
k^*	Mean absorption co-efficient
C_f	Skin-friction coefficient
Nu_x	Local Nusselt number

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1 Introduction

Radiation effect in blood flow is an important subject of research, because it has got significant applications in Biomedical engineering and several medical treatment methods, particularly in thermal therapeutic procedures. Infrared radiation is one of the frequently used techniques for making heat treatment to various parts of the human body. This technique is preferred in heat therapy, because by using infrared radiation it is possible to directly heat the blood capillaries of the affected areas of the body. In the treatment of muscle spasms, myalgia (muscle pain), chronic wide-spread pain (fibromyalgia, in medical terms) and permanent shortening of muscle (medically called as contracture), heat therapy is found to be very effective. It is also used in the treatment of bursitis, that is, inflammation of the fluid-filled sac (bursa) that lies between tendon and bone, or between tendon and skin. Several experimental investigations have been carried out by some researchers (cf. Koku [1], Inoue and Kabaya [2], Nishimoto et al. [3]) to examine the effects of infrared radiation/ultrasonic radiation on blood flow. The effect of radiative heat transfer on blood flow in a stenosed artery was studied theoretically by Prakash and Makinde [4]. By using a numerical model, He et al. [5] discussed the effect of temperature on blood flow in human breast tumor under laser irradiation.

While flowing through the arterial tree, blood carries a large quantity of heat to different parts of the body. On the skin surface, the transfer of heat can take place by any of the four processes: radiation, evaporation, conduction and convection. It is known that in the case of radiative heat transfer, energy is transferred through space by means of electromagnetic wave propagation. There are several determinants for the quantity of heat that blood can carry with it, namely, (1) heat transfer coefficient of blood, (2) density of blood, (3) velocity of blood flow, (4) radius of the artery and (5) temperature of the tissues that surround the artery. Out of these, since Reynolds number is related to the velocity and density of blood as well as the arterial radius, the quantity of heat carried by blood can be regarded as dependent only on Reynolds number and heat transfer coefficient of blood, and the temperature of the tissues surrounding the artery.

It may further be mentioned that blood flow enhances when a man performs hard physical work and also when the body is exposed to excessive heat environment. In cases like these, blood circulation can not remain normal. In order to take care of the increase in blood flow, the dimensions of the artery have to increase suitably. It is known that when the temperature of the surroundings exceeds 20 °C, heat transfer takes place from the surface of the skin by the process of evaporation through sweating

and when the temperature is below 20 °C, the human body loses heat by conduction and radiation both. Blood flow with radiative heat transfer was discussed by Ogulu and Bestman [6] on the basis of a theoretical study. Shah et al. [7] designed an instrument for measuring the heat convection coefficient on the endothelial surface of arteries. Effects of pulsatile blood flow in arteries during thermal therapy were studied by Craciunescu and Clegg [8] as well as by Horng et al. [9]. Shrivastava and Roemer [10] studied heat transfer rate from one blood vessel to another and also that from a blood vessel to tissue.

In addition to the aforementioned usefulness of radiative heat transfer in blood vessels, the radiation effect in blood is of significant interest to clinicians in the therapeutic procedure of hyperthermia, which has a well-recognized effect in oncology. Its effect is achieved by overheating the cancerous tissues (cf. Szasz [11]) by means of electromagnetic radiation. Misra et al. [12] reported theoretical estimates of blood flow in arteries during the therapeutic procedure of electromagnetic hyperthermia used for cancer treatment. Some relevant useful discussions are also available in that paper. Different aspects of hyperthermia were discussed/studied by several researchers (cf. Abe and Hiraoka [13], Molls [14], Chen and Roemer [15], Overgaard [16], Feldmann et al. [17], Habash et al. [18]). Deng et al. [19] observed significant thermal effects in blood vessels during cryosurgery by means of infrared temperature mapping.

Two major functions that blood performs while flowing in the circulatory system are to carry nutrients and to supply heat to body tissues. The exchange of materials mainly takes place at the capillary level. However, there exists evidence to support that materials are also transported across the permeable walls of arteries (and veins) [20]. The transport of water across the arterial wall is of interest in the study of metabolism and pathology of an artery. The nourishment of the arterial wall depends predominantly on the transport of materials from the arterial lumen. This transport can, sometimes, cause the genesis and the progression of arterial diseases such as atherosclerosis, atherogenesis, atheroma. Oka and Murata [21] discussed the steady flow of blood through a permeable capillary wall. Pallat et al. [22] studied the flow field in an infinite permeable tube.

Computational bio-fluid dynamics has made it possible to simulate complex flows in vascular passages such as cerebral and carotid arteries. The geometry of blood vessels and arterial walls, their structure and mechanical properties are largely dependent on pressure and flow conditions. Moreover, the effect of porosity of the medium on blood flow can not be ignored in many pathological situations. Vankan et al. [23] performed a simulation for blood flow through a contracting muscle, with a hierarchical structure

of pores. Dash et al. [24] employed the Brinkman equation to model the pathological blood flow when there is accumulation of fatty plaques of cholesterol in the lumen of an arterial segment and artery-clogging takes place by blood clots. They treated the clogged region as a porous medium and assumed the permeability parameter to be either a constant or varying in the radial direction. Preziosi and Farina [25] analyzed flow of a Newtonian fluid in a porous medium in the presence of mass exchange between the constituents.

The magnetic response of blood involves paramagnetic contribution emerging from the iron content of hemoglobin molecules and the diamagnetic contribution emerging from hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and carbon atoms contained in vessel tissues. The red blood cell (erythrocyte) is a major biomagnetic substance and therefore, it is quite possible that blood flow will be influenced by the presence of an external magnetic field. Reduction in blood flow rate is caused by either an increase in flow resistance or a reduction in blood pressure.

The effect of a magnetic field on blood flow has been analyzed theoretically by Chen [26] treating blood as an electrically conducting fluid. Tzirtzilakis and Tanoudis [27] studied the biomagnetic fluid flow over a stretching sheet. Pulsed magnetic fields have been used to treat various conditions, such as soft-tissue injury [28], chronic pelvic pain [29]. It has also been reported that application of a magnetic field is useful for nerve regeneration [30, 31], bone grafts [32] and fracture healing [33]. Keeping all these in mind, presence of an external magnetic field has been paid due consideration in the present study.

The flow over a stretching surface has received attention of several researchers in the past. Flow and heat transfer problems for a stretching sheet in different situations were studied by Liu [34] as well as by Sajid and Hayat [35]. However, in these studies, the flow and temperature fields were considered to be steady. But the cases in which the stretching force and surface temperature vary with time, have received scant attention of previous researchers. One of the merits of the present study is that it takes due care of the time-dependence of the stretching force and surface temperature of blood capillaries. This makes the study closer to the real situation.

It is a well known fact that a viscous fluid normally sticks to a boundary, i.e., there is no slip of the fluid relative to the boundary. However, Beavers and Joseph [36] observed that there are many situations, where there may be a partial slip between the fluid and the boundary. For many fluids, e.g. particulate fluids, although the motion is governed by Navier-Stokes equations, it is desirable that the no-slip condition at the boundary should be replaced by velocity-slip condition. Nubar [37] suggested the presence of a red cell (erythrocyte) slip at the vessel wall. Misra

et al. [38] conducted a study concerning blood flow through an arterial segment where they considered no-slip condition at the vessel wall. Subsequently however, Misra and Shit [39] investigated the role of slip velocity in blood flow through stenosed arteries.

Since blood is an electrically conducting fluid, in the presence of a magnetic field, its flow exhibits magneto-hydrodynamic (MHD) behaviour. Pal, Misra and Gupta [40] investigated the steady MHD flow of an electrically conducting fluid (with particular reference to blood flow in arteries) in a slowly varying channel in the presence of a uniform transverse magnetic field. Misra and Shit [41] developed a mathematical model of the flow of a bio-magnetic viscoelastic fluid over a stretching sheet. Misra and Shit [42] also investigated the flow and heat transfer of an MHD viscoelastic fluid in a channel with stretching walls. All these investigations carried out by Misra and his research group have been recognized as benchmark contributions in the field of physiological fluid dynamics.

In view of the discussion made above, we have been motivated towards investigating the problem of unsteady magnetohydrodynamic flow and heat transfer of blood in a narrow permeable blood vessel, which is in a state of unsteady stretching motion. The analysis of the model takes due care of thermal radiation that takes place when blood flows inside the vessel. Also, the thermal slip accompanied by velocity-slip at the capillary wall has been accounted for in the study. Because of the permeability of capillary blood vessel walls, consideration of the slip-velocity at the wall makes the study closer to the reality. Moreover, magnetic effects of blood (as discussed earlier) on the flow and heat transfer of blood have been considered under the purview of the same model. Keeping in view that during surgery, or thermal therapy, the clinician needs to control the blood flow by regulating the intensity of the externally applied magnetic field which the system is subject to, has been taken to be time-dependent. These are some of the novel features of the study. It may be mentioned here that although some attempts were made by previous researchers (cf. Raptis [43]) to study thermal radiation and free convection flow of a viscous fluid through a porous medium bounded by porous plates with constant suction velocity, the study was limited to steady flow in the absence of any magnetic field.

Moreover, keeping in the mind that in the physiological state, blood vessels (more particularly, the capillary blood vessels) execute a stretching motion, the blood vessel has been modelled as one that executes unsteady stretching motion and has its wall permeable, as per experimental reports available in scientific literatures.

The analysis of the model gives rise to a set of non-linear partial differential equations. For solving these

equations subject to the boundary conditions appropriate to the physical problem, we have made an endeavour to develop a suitable numerical method that involves the use of finite differences, together with the method of discretization, where the matrix of unknown physical variables is diagonally dominant. The computational results obtained by the use of high speed computers have been presented through graphs and tables. The results give the theoretical estimates of various parameters that govern the physical problem.

The present research being motivated towards studying the flow and heat transfer in capillary blood vessels bear the promise of useful applications in clinical sciences, particularly in thermal therapy. It also bears the potential of significant applications in different problems of biomedical engineering. In addition to these, being primarily a study on a problem of unsteady flow and heat transfer over a stretching sheet, it will find some important applications in various industrial manufacturing processes that involve interaction of the stretching sheet flow with radiative heat transfer. By using the theoretical analysis, changing the values of the parameters appropriately and employing the method of parametric variation, the estimates of different parameters controlling various problems of manufacturing industries can be obtained. The study is thus useful in assessing the quality of the final products too.

2 The model

Let us investigate the flow of blood through a narrow artery having permeable wall, which is in a state of unsteady stretching motion. We consider that the artery is under the action of a time-dependent magnetic field $B(t)$, which acts in a direction transverse to that of the flow. As per experimental observation, blood is a conducting fluid. Hence under the action of the magnetic field, the flow of blood will be of magneto-hydrodynamic (MHD) nature. In the analysis, presented in the next section, it is assumed that the magnetic Reynolds number is much less than unity so that the induced magnetic field is negligible in comparison to the applied magnetic field. Let us consider the axes of x and y in directions parallel and perpendicular to the axis of the artery (cf. Fig. 1). At time $t = 0$, the blood vessel is considered to be impulsively stretched with velocity $U_w(x, t)$ along the x – axis, where the origin is kept fixed in the fluid medium of ambient temperature T_∞ .

As mentioned in a very recent communication by Misra et al. [44], although the flow in the circulatory system is mainly three-dimensional, blood flow in micro-vessels can be taken to be two-dimensional in many cases.

Thus in the analysis that follows, blood flow in a narrow vessel will be approximated as a magneto-hydrodynamic

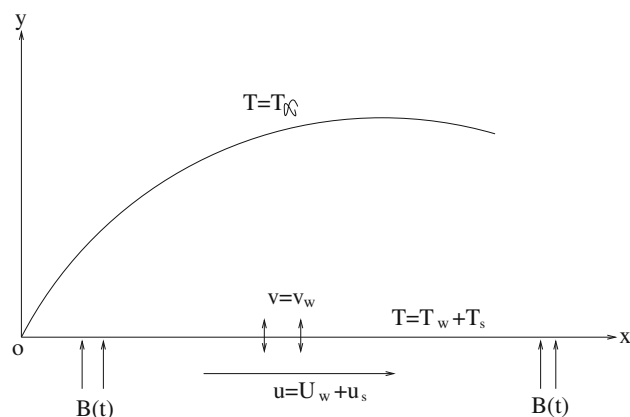


Fig. 1 Sketch of the physical problem

unsteady flow over a stretching sheet. The wall being permeable, velocity-slip as well as thermal slip will be taken into account. The associated heat transfer problem will also be analysed. Consideration of the thermal radiation that takes place during blood flow in narrow vessels will also be made.

3 Analysis

The analysis of the present model will be carried out under the purview of all the considerations/assumptions made in Sect. 2, keeping in view the discussions made in Sect. 1. Thus the flow will be considered as a channel flow. Hence the equations that govern the flow of blood for the present problem may be considered in the form

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\sigma B^2(t)}{\rho} u - \frac{\nu}{k_1(t)} u, \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = \frac{k}{\rho c_p} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} - \frac{1}{\rho c_p} \frac{\partial q_r}{\partial y} \quad (2)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0 \quad (3)$$

The definitions of all the symbols involved in the equations are included in the Nomenclature. The assumptions under which the above-written governing equations are valid, have been clearly stated in the formulation of the model, presented in Sect. 2. The boundary conditions for the problem can be written as (cf. [45, 46])

$$u = U_w + N\mu \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = U_w + u_s, \quad v = V_w, \quad (4)$$

$$T = T_w + K \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = T_w + T_s \quad \text{at } y = 0$$

and

$$u \rightarrow 0, \quad T \rightarrow T_\infty \quad \text{at} \quad y \rightarrow \infty \quad (5)$$

In Eq. (4) V_w represents the blood velocity at the capillary wall and is equal to injection/suction velocity given by

$$V_w = -\sqrt{\frac{\nu U_w}{x}} f(0). \quad (6)$$

Equation (6) implies that the mass transfer at the surface of the capillary wall takes place with a velocity V_w , where $V_w > 0$ in the case of injection and $V_w < 0$ in the case of suction. In Eq. (1), $k_1(t) = k_2(1 - ct)$ represents the time-dependent permeability parameter, in Eq. (4), $N = N_0(1 - ct)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is the velocity-slip factor, and $K = K_0(1 - ct)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is the thermal slip factor. The no-slip conditions can be recovered, by setting $N = K = 0$. The velocity $U_w(x, t)$ of the stretching motion of the blood capillary and the surface temperature $T_w(x, t)$ are considered in the following forms

$$U_w(x, t) = \frac{ax}{1 - ct}, \quad \text{and} \quad T_w(x, t) = T_\infty + \frac{bx}{1 - ct}, \quad (7)$$

where a , b and c are the constants such that $a > 0$, $b \geq 0$, $c \geq 0$ and $ct < 1$. Let us choose $B(t) = B_0(1 - ct)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$, where B_0 is a constant representing the magnetic field strength at $t = 0$. By using Rosseland approximation, the relative heat flux can be expressed as

$$q_r = -\frac{4\sigma^* \partial T^4}{3k^* \partial y}. \quad (8)$$

Considering that the temperature differences within the mass of blood inside the capillary are sufficiently small, using Taylor expansion and neglecting higher-order terms, we write:

$$T^4 = 4T_\infty^3 T - 3T_\infty^4, \quad (9)$$

T_∞ being the embedded temperature. We now introduce the following dimensionless functions f and θ , and similarity variable η as

$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{U_w}{\nu x}} y, \quad f(\eta) = \psi / \sqrt{\nu x U_w} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta = \frac{T - T_\infty}{T_w - T_\infty}. \quad (10)$$

Now substituting (10) into the Eqs. (1) and (2), we get the following set of ordinary differential equations

$$f''' + ff'' - f'^2 - A(f' + \frac{1}{2}\eta f'') - M^2 f' - \frac{1}{k_3} f' = 0 \quad (11)$$

and

$$\frac{(1 + Nr)}{Pr} \theta'' + f\theta' - \theta f' - A(\theta + \frac{1}{2}\eta\theta') = 0, \quad (12)$$

where A , M , k_3 , Nr and Pr are non-dimensional parameters called respectively the unsteadiness parameter, Hartman number, permeability parameter, radiation parameter and Prandtl number given by $A = \frac{c}{a}$, $M = B_0 \sqrt{\frac{\sigma}{\rho a}}$, $k_3 = \frac{ak_2}{\nu}$, $Nr = \frac{16\sigma^* T_\infty^3}{3k^* k}$ and $Pr = \frac{\mu c_p}{k}$. The boundary conditions (4) and (5) give rise to

$$f(0) = S, \quad f'(0) = 1 + S_f f''(0) \quad \text{and} \quad \theta(0) = 1 + S_t \theta'(0). \quad (13)$$

We further consider the following conditions:

$$f'(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \quad \theta(\eta) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad \eta \rightarrow \infty. \quad (14)$$

In Eq. (13), $S < 0$ and $S > 0$ correspond to injection and suction respectively. The non-dimensional velocity-slip factor S_f and the non-dimensional thermal slip factor S_t are defined by $S_f = N_0 \rho \sqrt{av}$ and $S_t = K_0 \sqrt{\frac{b}{\nu}}$.

In the equations written above, primes denote derivatives with respect to η . It may be noted that if we set $A = 0$ in Eqs. (11) and (12), the problem will be reduced to one in the steady state.

4 Computational procedure: development of a suitable numerical method

The two ordinary differential Eqs. (11) and (12) subject to the boundary conditions (13) and (14) constitute a non-linear boundary value problem. To solve the boundary value problem, we have developed a suitable computational procedure, as outlined below. Writing $f' = P$ in (11), we get

$$P'' + fP' - P^2 - A(P + \frac{1}{2}\eta P') - M^2 P - \frac{1}{k_3} P = 0. \quad (15)$$

Also the boundary conditions (13) and (14) will then become

$$f(0) = S, \quad P(0) = 1 + S_f P'(0), \quad P(\infty) \rightarrow 0. \quad (16)$$

Using the central difference scheme for derivatives with respect to η , we can write

$$(V')_i = \frac{V_{i+1} - V_{i-1}}{2\delta\eta} + O((\delta\eta)^2) \quad (17)$$

and

$$(V'')_i = \frac{V_{i+1} - 2V_i + V_{i-1}}{(\delta\eta)^2} + O((\delta\eta)^2), \quad (18)$$

where V stands for P or θ ; i is the grid index in η -direction with $\eta_i = i \times \delta\eta$; $i = 0, 1, \dots, m$ $\delta\eta$ is the increment along the η -axis. Newton's linearization method can then be applied to linearize the discretized equations as follows.

When the values of the unknown functions at the n th iteration are known, the corresponding values of these variables at the next iteration are obtained by using the equation

$$V_i^{n+1} = V_i^n + (\Delta V_i)^n, \quad (19)$$

in which $(\Delta V_i)^n$ represents the error at the n th iteration, $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$. It is worthwhile to mention here that the error $(\Delta V_i)^n$ at the boundary is zero, because the values of V_i at the boundary are known. Using (19) in (15) and dropping the quadratic and higher order terms in $(\Delta V_i)^n$, we get a system of block tri-diagonal equations. To solve this tri-diagonal system of equations, we have used the “Tri-diagonal matrix algorithm”, usually referred as “Thomas algorithm” (cf. [47–49]). It may be mentioned here that instead of this, one could use Gauss elimination method. But in that case, the number of operations would be m^3 , while in the method that we have employed here, the number of operations is m , where m is the number of unknowns. Thus the error committed in our method is much less than that in the method of Gauss elimination. In the process of determination of the distribution of the function $f(\eta)$, the accuracy can be defined as the difference between the calculated values of $f(\eta)$ at two successive operations, say $(n+1)$ th and n th. In the present case, the error ϵ is equal to

$$\epsilon = |f^{n+1}(\eta) - f^n(\eta)|$$

and is estimated to be less than 10^{-6} .

5 Computation of some theoretical estimates and related discussion

In order to study the flow and heat transfer of blood in a time-dependent porous narrow blood vessel over a permeable unsteady stretching sheet (as an approximation of a micro-vessel) under slip condition, subject to the action of an external magnetic field, the numerical technique described above has been employed to solve the system of Eqs. (11)–(12), along with the boundary conditions (13) and (14).

In order to achieve the numerical solution, it is necessary to assign some specific values for the dimensionless parameters involved in the analysis presented in Sects. 2 and 3.

In this section, the computational estimates of different dimensionless parameters involved in the analysis, have been presented in graphical/tabular forms. For performing the computational study, we have made use of the values of various dimensionless parameters (governing the flow problem) that have been reported in scientific literatures by

previous experimental/theoretical researchers. Experimental reports reveal that like most other fluids, for human blood the viscosity μ , specific heat at constant pressure c_p and the thermal conductivity k are temperature-dependent. On the basis of their experimental studies, Valvano et al. [50] and Chato [51] reported the following data for human blood at a temperature $T = 310$ °K:

$$\mu = 3.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg/ms}, \quad c_p = 14.65 \text{ J/kg}^\circ\text{K} \quad \text{and} \\ k = 2.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ J/ms}^\circ\text{K}$$

Using these data, we find that the value of the Prandtl number $Pr = \frac{\mu c_p}{k}$ for human blood is 21.

Keeping this in view and employing the data used by Ishak et al. [45], Hayat et al. [46], Sinha and Misra [49] and Makinde and Osalusi [52], we performed the computation for the following spectrum of values of different parameters:

- Unsteadiness parameter $A = 0.0, 0.3, 1.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0$
- Suction parameter $S = 0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0$
- Permeability parameter $k_3 = 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5$
- Velocity slip factor $S_f = 0.0, 0.3, 0.6, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 4.0$
- Thermal slip factor $S_t = 0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.5$
- Prandtl number $Pr = 21.0, 22.0, 23.0, 24.0, 25.0$
- Radiation parameter $Nr = 0.0, 0.2, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0$
- $M^2 = 0.2, 0.5, 0.7, 1.0$, M being the Hartmann number.

The computational procedure has been executed by taking $\delta\eta = 0.0125$ with 321 grid points. The results computed have been reported graphically in Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The results presented in these figures have all been computed by choosing 321 grid points. Figure 13 shows that the results do not change, if we further increase the number of grid points. Figure 14 establishes the validity of our results.

The variation of non-dimensional axial velocity f' for different values of Hartmann number M , velocity slip factor S_f , porosity permeability k_3 and the suction parameter S are shown in Figs. 2, 3, 4 and 5. Figure 2 reveals that axial velocity decreases as Hartmann number M increases. This may be attributed to the fact that an increase in M signifies an enhancement of Lorentz force, thereby reducing the magnitude of the velocity. This figure further indicates that blood velocity in the capillary decreases with increase in distance from the lower wall of the capillary. Figure 3 describes the effects of the velocity-slip factor S_f on axial velocity. Clearly velocity in the axial direction reduces when the slip velocity increases. In fact, the quantity $1 - f'(0)$ increases monotonically with S_f . So the limiting case (i.e., for large values of S_f) implies that the frictional resistance between the viscous fluid (blood) and the wall is eliminated and stretching of the blood vessel

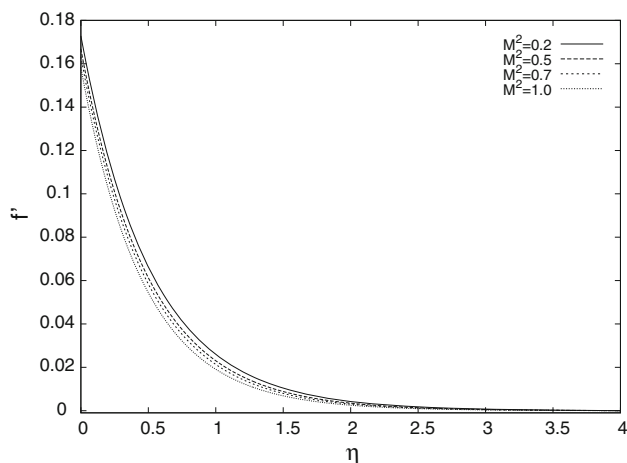


Fig. 2 Velocity distribution for different values of M^2 with $A = 0.3$, $S_f = 2.5$, $S_r = 1.0$, $k_3 = 0.4$, $S = 0.5$, $Pr = 21.0$, and $Nr = 0.2$

does not significantly add to the motion of the fluid. Figure 4 shows that the axial velocity increases with a rise in permeability. Moreover, for small permeability ($k_3 = 0.2$), the axial velocity reduces faster than when the permeability is higher ($k_3 = 0.3, 0.4, 0.5$). Figure 5 gives the distribution of axial velocity for different values of the suction parameter S defined in Eq. (16). The influence of S on axial velocity is similar when compared with Fig. 2, but the reduction in velocity is slightly larger in case of M in comparison to the case of the suction parameter S .

Figures 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 give some characteristic temperature profiles for different values of Hartmann number (M), velocity slip, thermal slip, suction parameter (S), Prandtl number (Pr) and radiation parameter (Nr). The effect of magnetic parameter (M) on temperature profile θ is shown in Fig. 6. It is noticed that presence of a magnetic field enhances the temperature of the boundary layer of the capillary. This can be attributed to the fact that the introduction of the transverse magnetic field to an electrically conducting fluid gives rise to a resistive type of force known as Lorentz force. This force bears the potential to enhance the temperature of blood. Figures 7 and 8 illustrate the changes that take place in the temperature distribution in blood when the values of velocity-slip factor (S_f) and thermal slip factor (S_r) vary. It is important to observe from these two figures that with a rise in velocity-slip, the temperature at any point in the flow medium increases; however, the temperature reduces when thermal slip enhances. From Fig. 9 which elucidates the influence of the suction parameter (S) on temperature distribution, it is revealed that when the injection/suction velocity increases, the temperature of blood at any point of the flow medium diminishes.

Figure 10 presents the change in the temperature distribution in the boundary layer, when the Prandtl number

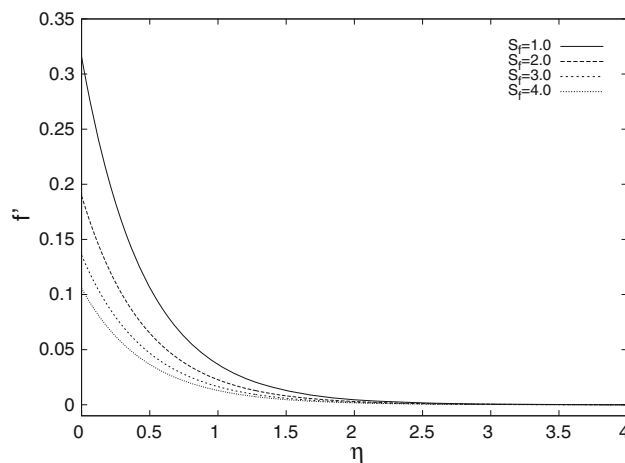


Fig. 3 Velocity distribution for different values of S_f with $A = 0.3$, $M^2 = 1.0$, $S_r = 1.0$, $k_3 = 0.4$, $S = 0.5$, $Pr = 21.0$, and $Nr = 0.2$

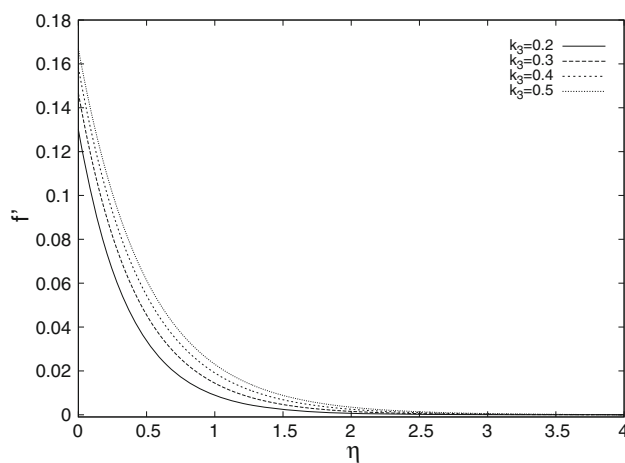


Fig. 4 Velocity distribution for different values of k_3 with $A = 0.3$, $M^2 = 1.0$, $S_r = 1.0$, $S_f = 2.5$, $S = 0.5$, $Pr = 21.0$, and $Nr = 0.2$

(Pr) changes gradually. It shows that as the Prandtl number increases, the temperature of the boundary layer diminishes. This may be attributed to the fact that the thermal boundary layer thickness reduces with an increase in Prandtl number. Further, this figure indicates that the temperature gradient at the surface increases with a rise in Prandtl number. This implies that an increase in Prandtl number is accompanied by an enhancement of the heat transfer rate at the wall of the blood vessel. The underlying physics behind this can be described as follows. When blood attains a higher Prandtl number, its thermal conductivity is lowered down and so its heat conduction capacity diminishes. Thereby the thermal boundary layer thickness gets reduced. As a consequence, the heat transfer rate at the vessel wall is increased.

Figure 11 illuminates a very important effect of thermal radiation on the temperature profile. This figure emphasizes

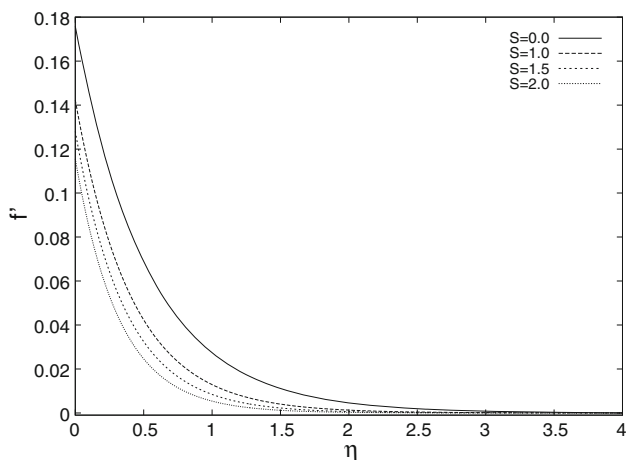


Fig. 5 Velocity distribution for different values of S with $A = 0.3$, $M^2 = 1.0$, $S_t = 1.0$, $S_f = 2.5$, $k_3 = 0.4$, $Pr = 21.0$, and $Nr = 0.2$

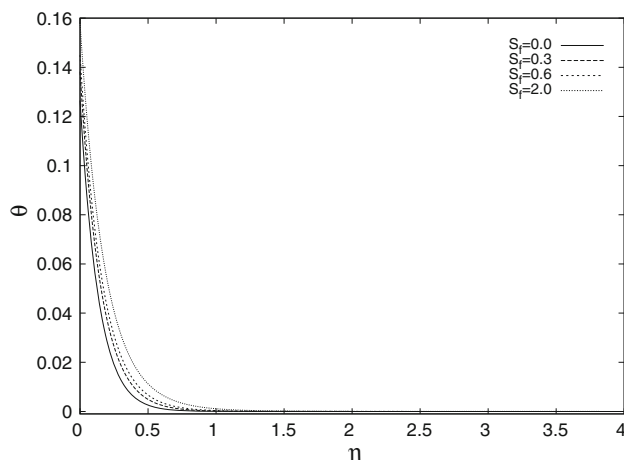


Fig. 7 Temperature distribution for different values of S_f with $A = 0.3$, $S = 0.5$, $k_3 = 0.4$, $M^2 = 0.5$, $S_t = 1.0$, $Pr = 21.0$ and $Nr = 0.2$

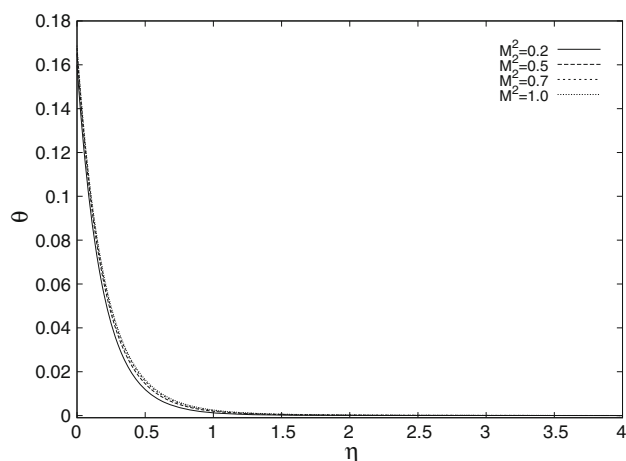


Fig. 6 Temperature distribution for different values of M^2 with $A = 0.3$, $S = 0.5$, $k_3 = 0.4$, $S_f = 2.5$, $S_t = 1.0$, $Pr = 21.0$ and $Nr = 0.2$

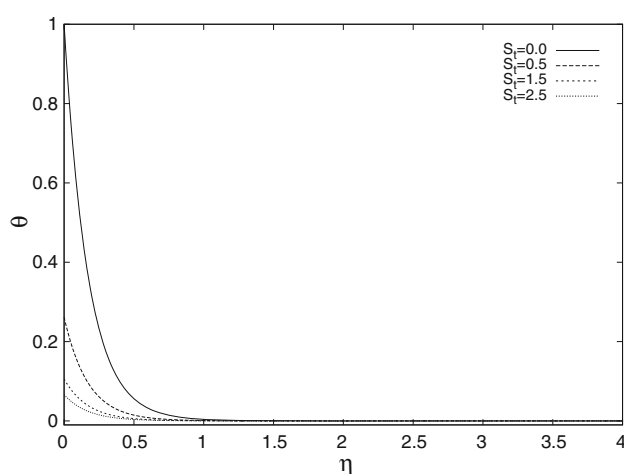


Fig. 8 Temperature distribution for different values of S_t with $A = 0.3$, $S = 0.5$, $k_3 = 0.4$, $M^2 = 0.5$, $S_f = 2.5$, $Pr = 21.0$ and $Nr = 0.2$

that as thermal radiation increases during blood flow in capillaries, there is a significant rise in the thickness of boundary layer. Thereby the temperature of the boundary layer is enhanced by an appreciable extent.

Of profound interest in problems such as the one under our present consideration, is the skin-friction coefficient denoted by C_f and defined by $C_f = \frac{\tau_w}{\rho U_w^2/2} = \frac{1}{2} Re_x^{-1/2} f''(0)$, τ_w being equal to $\mu(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y})_{y=0}$. Figure 12 gives the variation of skin-friction with the Hartmann number for different values of unsteadiness parameter A . It is seen that skin-friction increases as the unsteadiness parameter A increases. Another important characteristic that has significant relevance in the present study is the local Nusselt number Nu_x , defined as $Nu_x = \frac{xq_w}{k(T_w - T_\infty)} = -Re_x^{-1/2} \theta'(0)$, q_w being

measured by $-k(\frac{\partial T}{\partial y})_{y=0}$. The above definition of the local Nusselt number shows that its variation depends on the variation of the factor $\theta'(0)$, the values of which on the stretching wall, as per our computational study are presented below in tabular form. The tabulated values correspond to the particular case when $k_3 = 0.4$, $S = 0.5$, $S_f = 2.5$ and $S_t = 1.0$.

The computed values displayed in Table 1 indicate that an increase in local Nusselt number, when the value of any of the parameters A , M or Nr increases, the local Nusselt number will diminish.

In order to perform grid independent test for the choice of 321 grid points, we repeated the computational procedure by considering a number of mesh sizes by altering the values of $\delta\eta$. Figure 13 shows that the plots for the velocity distribution for $\delta\eta = 0.008$ (mesh size = 501) and for

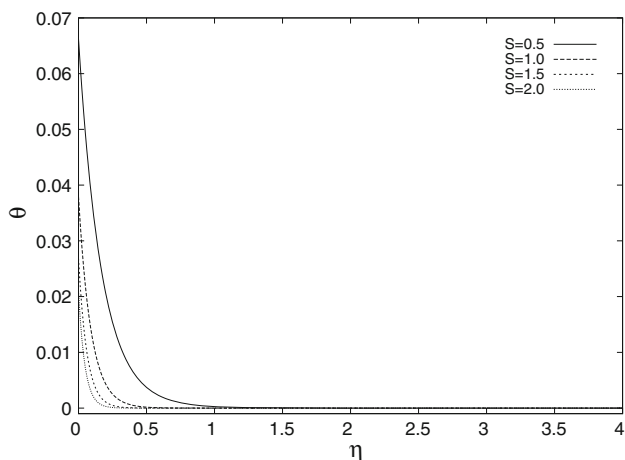


Fig. 9 Temperature distribution for different values of S with $A = 0.3$, $S_t = 1.0$, $k_3 = 0.4$, $M^2 = 0.5$, $S_f = 2.5$, $Pr = 21.0$ and $Nr = 0.2$

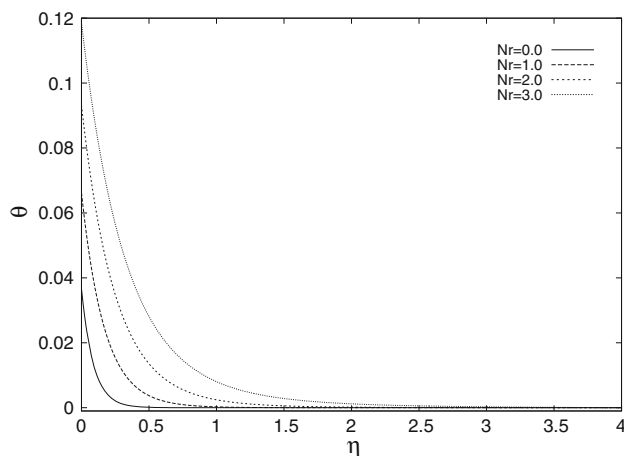


Fig. 11 Temperature distribution for different values of Nr with $A = 0.3$, $S_t = 1.0$, $k_3 = 0.4$, $M^2 = 0.5$, $S_f = 2.5$, $S = 0.5$ and $Pr = 21.0$

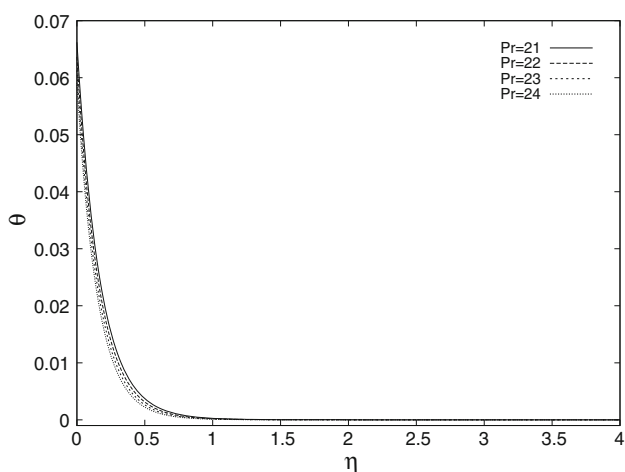


Fig. 10 Temperature distribution for different values of Pr with $A = 0.3$, $S_t = 1.0$, $k_3 = 0.4$, $M^2 = 0.5$, $S_f = 2.5$, $S = 0.5$ and $Nr = 0.2$

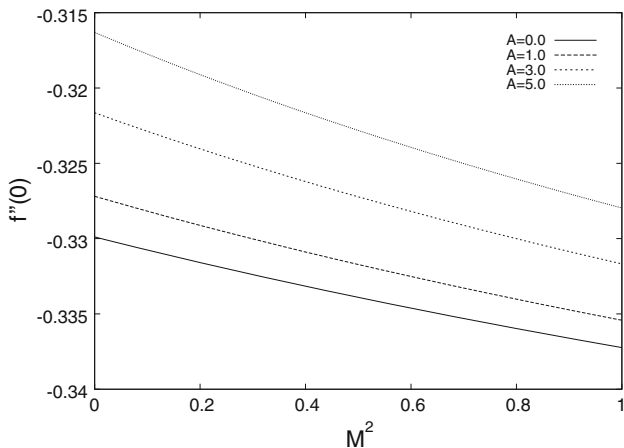


Fig. 12 Variation of skin-friction with M for different values of unsteadiness parameter A with $k_3 = 0.4$, $S = 0.5$ and $S_f = 2.5$

$\delta\eta = 0.01$ (mesh size = 401) coincide with the plot corresponding to $\delta\eta = 0.0125$, that is, to a mesh size of 321. It has also been ascertained that for any mesh size less than 321, the results are inaccurate.

In order to validate the results of our study, which we obtained by employing our numerical procedure, we have made an attempt to compare with the numerical results reported by Ishak et al. [45], which they obtained by using their analytical solution. For the purpose of a meaningful comparison, we had to bring our problem to the same platform as that of [45], by setting $M = 0.0$, $S_f = 0.0$, $A = 0.0$, $S = 1.0$. Moreover, for making the comparison, we considered in our study a large value of the permeability parameter (taking $k_3 = 100.0$).

The analytical solution for $f(\eta)$ presented by Ishak et al. [45] is given by $f(\eta) = \zeta - \frac{1}{\zeta}e^{-\eta\zeta}$, so that $f'(\eta) = e^{-\eta\zeta}$

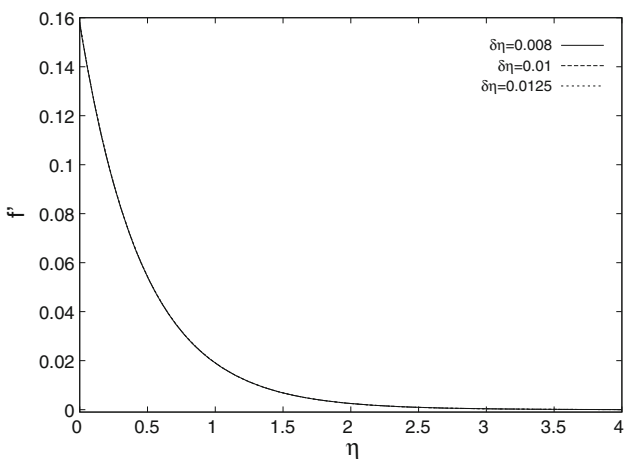


Fig. 13 Velocity distribution for different mesh sizes

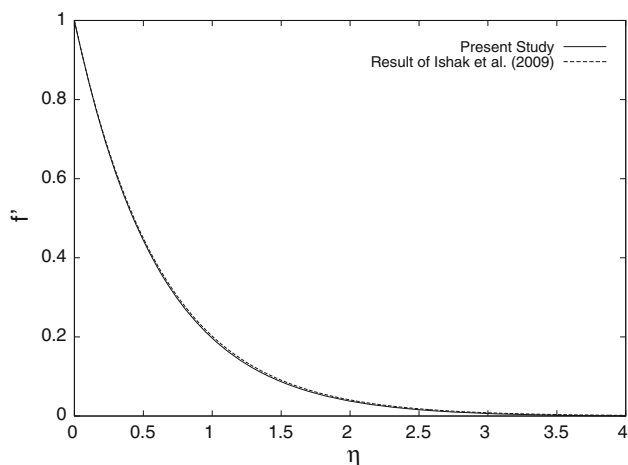


Fig. 14 Velocity distribution for $M = 0.0$, $S_f = 0.0$, $A = 0.0$, $S = 1.0$ and $k_3 = 100.0$ (comparison of the results of the present study with the numerical results of Ishak et al. [45] on the basis of their analytical solution)

Table 1 Numerical values of $\theta'(0)$ for different values of unsteadiness parameter (A), Hartmann number (M), Prandtl number (Pr) and radiation parameter (Nr)

A	M^2	Nr	Pr	$-\theta'(0)$
3.0	0.5	1.0	21.0	0.4659137
3.0	0.5	1.0	25.0	0.5335517
3.0	0.5	2.0	21.0	0.3294789
3.0	1.0	1.0	21.0	0.4242029
4.0	0.5	1.0	21.0	0.3904817

In their analysis, $f_0 = \zeta - \frac{1}{\zeta}$ is the suction/injection parameter, while in the analysis of our model, S stands for the injection/suction parameter.

The results of our study for the particular case described above and those of [45] have been presented side by side in Fig. 14. It may be noted that our results are in excellent agreement with those reported by Ishak et al. [45].

6 Summary and conclusion

The mathematical model formulated and analyzed in the study has been motivated towards investigating the effect of thermal radiation on the flow as well as heat transfer in a narrow permeable blood vessel, when the system is subject to the action of an external magnetic field. The study is particularly applicable to a situation, where the lumen of the blood vessel has turned into a porous medium due to the deposition of cholesterol, fatty substances etc., our target being to study the flow pattern and heat transfer in the blood vessel when it is in a pathological state. The blood vessel is considered to execute an unsteady

stretching motion. The erythrocyte slip at the vessel wall and the thermal slip have been duly accounted for. All these considerations have made the study quite close to a real situation.

The study bears the potential to explore some important information regarding the complex flow behaviour of blood in situations, where all the eight physical parameters M , A , S , k_3 , S_f , S_r , Pr and Nr play prominent roles on the hemodynamical flow and heat transfer in arterioles. The numerical estimates presented here elucidate the effects of the said parameters. These may be summarized as follows:

1. The velocity of blood can be controlled by suitably regulating the intensity of the external magnetic field.
2. Thermal radiation bears the potential to bring about a significant change in the temperature field of the boundary layer. With a rise in thermal radiation, the thermal boundary layer thickness increases by an appreciable extent.
3. An increase in erythrocyte-slip at the capillary wall leads to an increase in the temperature of the boundary layer, while an increase in thermal slip reduces the temperature field.
4. When the injection/suction velocity increases, the velocity and temperature of blood in the capillary both diminish.
5. The temperature of blood inside the boundary layer also reduces, if the Prandtl number increases.
6. The velocity of blood along the axis of the capillary increases with a rise in permeability.

In order to treat the patients more accurately with an aim to get better results in thermal therapy for relieving pain, the theoretical estimates presented here will be useful. Moreover, the study gives an understanding of the thermal processes that take place during blood flow in micro-vessels of the arterial tree. The study will also be of sufficient interest to clinicians who are engaged in the treatment of cancers and tumors by using the method of electromagnetic hyperthermia. This is because this technique involves overheating the affected tissues, usually around 42 °C. This study will also find applications in estimating the electromagnetic radiation when a human being has to work in radiation fields. Owing to the reason that the study takes into account heat transfer, it will find application in performing heat-dose sensitivity tests, which are required for using the method of hyperthermia in an appropriate manner.

Since the study takes into account velocity-slip and also since blood velocity in micro-vessels is low, it bears the potential to furnish some additional information regarding the causes and development of arterial diseases, such as atherosclerosis. It is worthwhile to mention here the conjecture made by Caro et al. [53] that arterial diseases, like

atherosclerosis occur mostly in regions, where blood velocity is low. Due to similar reasons, the study will find applications in surgical operations, where it is necessary to reduce the blood flow rate, since this study clearly reveals that reduction of the volumetric flow rate of blood can be accomplished by exposing the system to a magnetic field. Further, the present study will be useful in assessing the accuracy of future experimental/theoretical studies of more complex nature, that may involve greater number of physical parameters.

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