Interestingly enough, some tumors secrete substances that inhibit angiogenesis. Angiogenesis inhibitors that are released into the circulation and inhibit angiogenesis, and thus inhibit further growth of any metastases of the primary tumor (Folkman 1971).

1.6.1 The process of angiogenesis

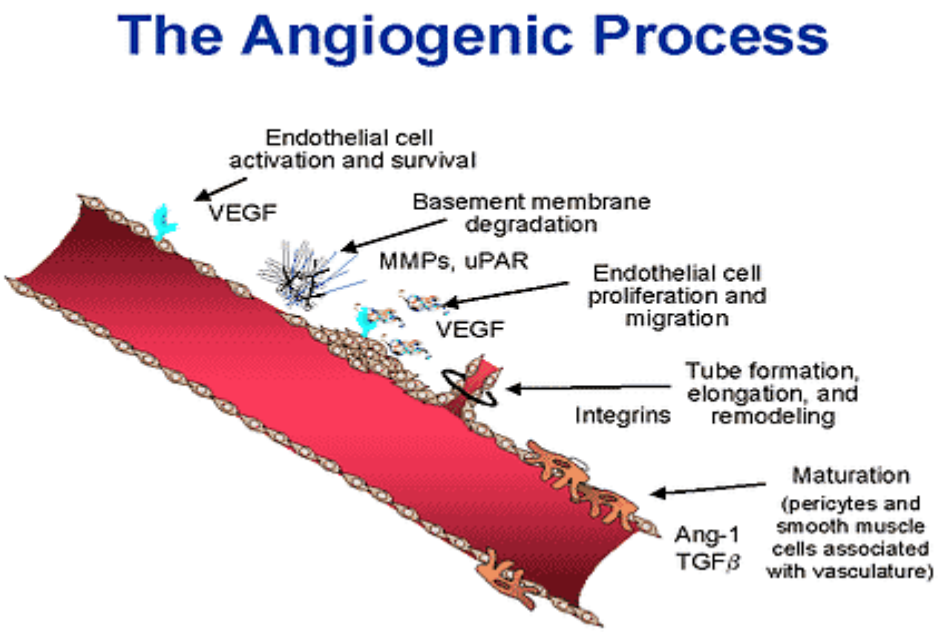

Figure 11: Illustration of different steps in angiogenesis process.

The formation of new blood vessels (neovascularization) in humans and animals occurs via two distinct pathways, vasculogenesis and angiogenesis as seen in (figure 11). During vasculogenesis, progenitor cell types differentiate into endothelial cells and subsequently organize into vascular structures (Risau 1990). This process seems to be restricted to embryonic development, whereas angiogenesis, the formation of new blood vessels from pre-existing capillaries, occurs both during embryogenesis and postnatal life. For example, angiogenesis is a critical component of the wound