**Cardiovascular System**

**13.1 Introduction**

Systemic Circulation – delivers blood to all body cells and carries away waste  
Pulmonary Circulation – eliminates carbon dioxide and oxygenates blood (lung pathway)

Arteries - carry blood away from the heart   
Veins - return blood to the heart

**13.2 Structure of the Heart**

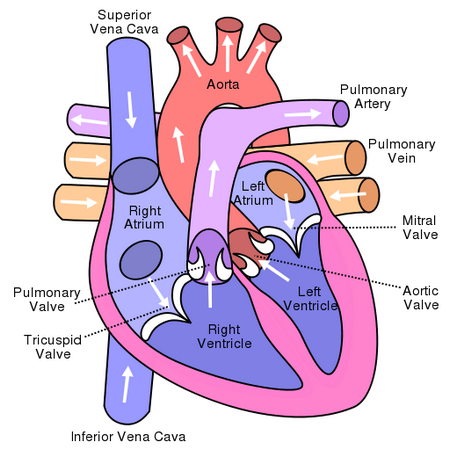
Heart Size – about 14 cm x 9 cm (the size of a fist)

Coverings of the heart

Pericardium encloses the heart (like a bag) (visceral, parietal)  
Pericardial cavity – contains fluid for the heart to float in, reducing friction

Wall of the Heart

Epicardium – outer layer, reduces friction  
Myocardium – middle layer, mostly cardiac muscle  
Endocardium – inner layer, blood vessels and Purkinje fibers

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**13.3 Heart Chambers and Valves**

Atria - top chambers

Ventricles - bottom chambers

Septum - divides left and right side

Atrioventricular Valve (AV) - these valves are located between the atrium and the ventricle

Tricuspid - right side AV

Bicuspid - left side AV, also called mitral valve

Superior Vena Cava - vessel the returns blood to the heart from the upper body

Inferior Vena Cava - vessel the returns blood to the heart from the lower body

Coronary Sinus - indentation on the front of the heart

Chordae tendinae / Papillary Muscles - muscles and tendons that hold the heart valves in place

Pulmonary Trunk/Arteries - large vessel that splits into the left and right pulmonary arteries, these are the only arteries that carry deoxygenated blood

Pulmonary valve - controls the flow of blood into the pulmonary trunk

Pulmonary Veins - returns oxygenated blood from the lungs

Aorta - large vessel that delivers blood to the body

Aortic Valve - controls the flow of blood into the aorta

**Path of Blood Through the Heart**

Quick Overview

1. Deoxygenated blood enters right atrium through the vena cava  
2. Blood moves into the right ventricle  
3. Blood goes out the pulmonary arteries and heads to the lungs  
4. Blood returns from the lungs and enters the left atrium  
5. Blood moves into the left ventricle  
6. Oxygenated blood moves out of the left ventricle through the aorta and to the body

**13.3 Heart Actions**

**Cardiac Cycle - once complete heartbeat**

**Systolic pressure / diastolic pressure**

Systolic occurs when blood is forced out of the left ventricle, and the aortic valve OPENS...this is the high number on a blood pressure reading

Diastolic occurs when the aortic valve closes and the ventricle relaxes, this is the lower number of the blood pressure reading.

Average (Normal) Blood Pressure = 120/80  
Average heart rate = 72 bpm

The cusps (flaps) of the bicuspid and tricuspid valves are anchored to the ventricle walls by fibrous “cords” called chordate tendineae, which attach to the wall by papillary muscles. This prevents the valves from being pushed up into the atria during ventricular systole.

\*The device used to measure blood pressure is a **SPHYGMOMANOMETER**

Factors affecting blood pressure:

1. Cardiac Output  
2.  Blood volume (5 liters for avg adult)  
3.  Blood Viscosity  
4.  Peripheral Resistance

**ECG = electrocardiogram**

- recording or electrical events that occur during the cardiac cycle

* P Wave – depolarization of the atria (atrial contraction – systole)
* QRS Complex – depolarization of the ventricles (ventricular contraction, systole)
* T Wave – Repolarization of the ventricles

Heart Sounds

- the opening and closing of the valves makes a characteristic "lub dub" sound.  
- doctors use a STETHESCOPE to listen to the heart sounds, cardiologists are trained to hear abnormalities.

**Cardiac Conduction System:** Specialized cardiac muscle tissue which conducts impulses.

1. Sinoatrial (S-A) Node – “Pacemaker.” Posterior wall of the right atrium. Special muscle tissue that spontaneously generates (initiates) rhythmic impulses which spread through the myocardium. Cells of the S-A Node are “self-excitatory”  
2. Junctional Fibers – carries impulses into the A-V Node. Also these slow down the impulse (smaller fibers)  
3. Atrioventricular Node (A-V) – conducts impulses from the atria through the septum, to the ventricles. Slows the impulse further, giving atria time to empty and the ventricles time to fill. Found in the floor of right atrium, near septum  
4. A-V Bundle – within the interventricular septum. A right and left branch transmits impulse to walls of the ventricles.  
5. Perkinje Fibers – Begin about halfway down the septum. Branch throughout the walls of the ventricles and carry impulse rapidly throughout ventricles, stimulating contraction

**Cardiac Output = Stroke Volume x Heart Rate**

**Regulation of the Cardiac Cycle** – controlled by the**cardiac center** within the **medulla oblongata**. The cardiac center signals heart to increase or decrease its rate according to many factors that the brain constantly monitors.

Increased muscle activity = Higher oxygen demands = increase in heart rate  
Higher Body temperature = increased heart rate; Lower body temp = lower heart rate  
Blood level of certain ions - Potassium High = Lower heart rate; Potassium Low = Higher heart rate  
- Calcium high = Higher heart rate; Calcium Low = Lower heart rate

**Abnormal Heart Rhythms – Arrhythmias**

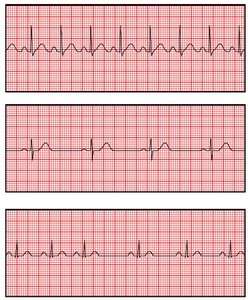
Tachycardia = rapid heartbeat ( > 100 BPM)  
Bradycardia = slow heartbeat ( < 60 BPM)  
Fibrillation = rapid, uncoordinated unsynchronized heart rate. Atria (not serious. Ventricles (deadly)

**SADS**  = (Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes  or  Sudden Adult Death Syndrome)

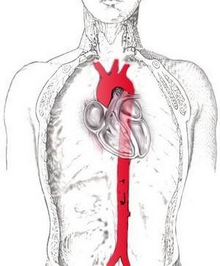
**Interpreting ECGs**

An ECG is printed on paper covered with a grid of squares.

Notice that five small squares on the paper form a larger square. The width of a single small square on ECG paper represents 0.04 seconds. A common length of an ECG printout is 6 seconds; this is known as a "six second strip."



**Defibrillator**- common treatment for life-threatening cardiac arrhythmia The device shocks the heart and allows it to re-establish its normal rhythm The device can also be used to start a heart that has stopped



**13.4 Blood Vessels : arteries, veins, capillaries**

**Arteries**: strong elastic vessels which carry blood moving away from the heart. Smallest ones are**arterioles** which connect to capillaries .

**Veins** : Thinner, less muscular vessels carrying blood toward the heart. Smallest ones are called**venules** which connect to capillaries . Contain valves .

**Capillaries** : Penetrate nearly all tissues. Walls are composed of a single layer of squamous cells – very thin. Critical function: allows exchange of materials (oxygen, nutrients) between blood and tissues.

**Control of Blood Flow:**

Precapillary sphincters – circular, valve-like muscle at arteriole-capillary junction.

Vasoconstriction – narrowing blood vessel’s lumen (“passageway”)  
Vasodilation – explanding blood vessel’s lumen

Blood flow through veins – not very efficient. Slow, weak “pushing” by arterial blood pressure is not much of a factor at all.

Important factors include:

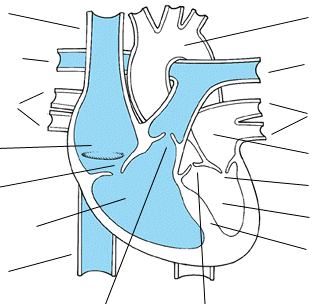
1. Contraction of the diaphragm.   
2. Pumping action of the skeletal muscles.   
3. Valves in the veins.

\* Blood Clots can occur if blood does not flow properly through the veins - can occur if a person does not move enough

**Major Blood Vessels**

Aorta - Ascending Aorta, Aortic Arch, Descending Aorta, Abdominal Aorta. The aorta is the largest artery. (leaves right ventricle)  
Pulmonary Trunk – splits into left and right, both lead to the lungs (leaves left ventricle)  
Pulmonary Veins – return blood from the lungs to the heart (connects to left atrium)  
Superior and Inferior Vena Cava – return blood from the head and body to the heart (connects to right atrium)

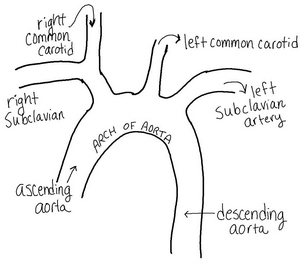
Please label on the diagram!!!



**Branches of the Aorta**

Right and Left Coronary Arteries - supply blood to the heart itself  
Brachiocephalic Artery branches into the Right Subclavian ( supplies blood to the arms) and the Left Common Carotid (bicarotid)   
The common carotid then branches into the left and right carotid arteries which supply blood to the head  
Left Subclavian Artery – supplies blood to the left arms

Note that the vessels are not symmetrical.



Please complete the Blood pressure lab.