

Your Normal Heart (Patient Education - Disease and Procedure)**Your Normal Heart**

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You must carefully read the "Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer" below in order to understand and correctly use this information

About this topic

Your heart is about the size of your fist and is made of muscle. The heart pumps blood and oxygen to all parts of your body. It also takes carbon dioxide from your tissues and carries it to your lungs. Problems with any part of your heart can lead to serious health problems.

General

The heart has 2 upper chambers called atria and 2 lower chambers called ventricles. These chambers beat in a coordinated way when the heart is healthy. This lets the heart pump blood effectively to the rest of the body. Between the chambers are valves that act like doors to keep the blood in the chamber or to let it out.

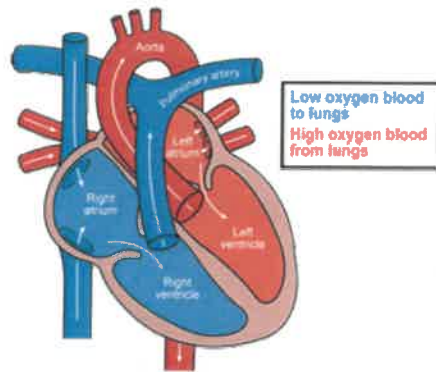
The heart has an electrical system that controls each heartbeat. The signal starts at the top of the heart and moves to the bottom. This signal tells your heart to squeeze and pump blood. The signal repeats with each heartbeat.

The heart has a set of blood vessels that bring blood to the heart muscle. These are your coronary arteries.

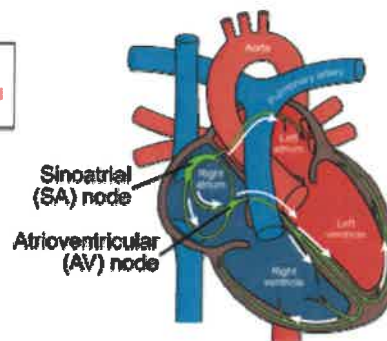
Blood from your body that is low in oxygen flows into your right atrium, goes through your tricuspid valve, and into your right ventricle. Then the blood leaves your right ventricle through your pulmonary valve, into your pulmonary artery, and to your lungs where it picks up oxygen and gets rid of carbon dioxide. The bright red blood comes back to your left atrium, goes through your mitral valve, and into your left ventricle. The left ventricle pumps the blood through the aortic valve and into your aorta to go out to your body.

Image(s)

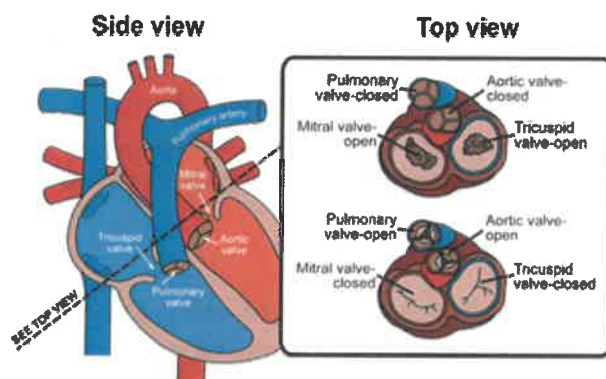
Normal Heart



Heart Electrical System



Heart Valves



What problems could happen?

Problems with your:

- Valves
- Conduction system
- Coronary arteries
- Pumping chambers

When do I need to call the doctor?

Activate the emergency medical system right away if you have signs of a heart attack. Call 911 in the United States or Canada. The sooner treatment begins, the better your chances for recovery. Call for emergency help right away if you have signs of heart attack like:

- Chest pain
- Trouble breathing
- Fast heartbeat
- Feeling dizzy

Last Reviewed Date

2021-02-15

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer:

This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from your health care provider. This is only a brief summary of general information. It does NOT include all information about conditions, illnesses, injuries, tests, procedures, treatments, therapies, discharge instructions or life-style choices that may apply to you. You must talk with your health care provider for complete information about your health and treatment options. This information should not be used to decide whether or not to accept your health care provider's advice, instructions or recommendations. Only your health care provider has the knowledge and training to provide advice that is right for you.

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