

Acquired cardiac disorders are disease processes or abnormalities that occur after birth and can be seen in the normal heart or in the presence of congenital heart defects. They result from various factors, including infection, autoimmune responses, environmental factors, and familial tendencies. The pathophysiology review found in [Fig. 23-1](#) describes the flow of blood through the heart.

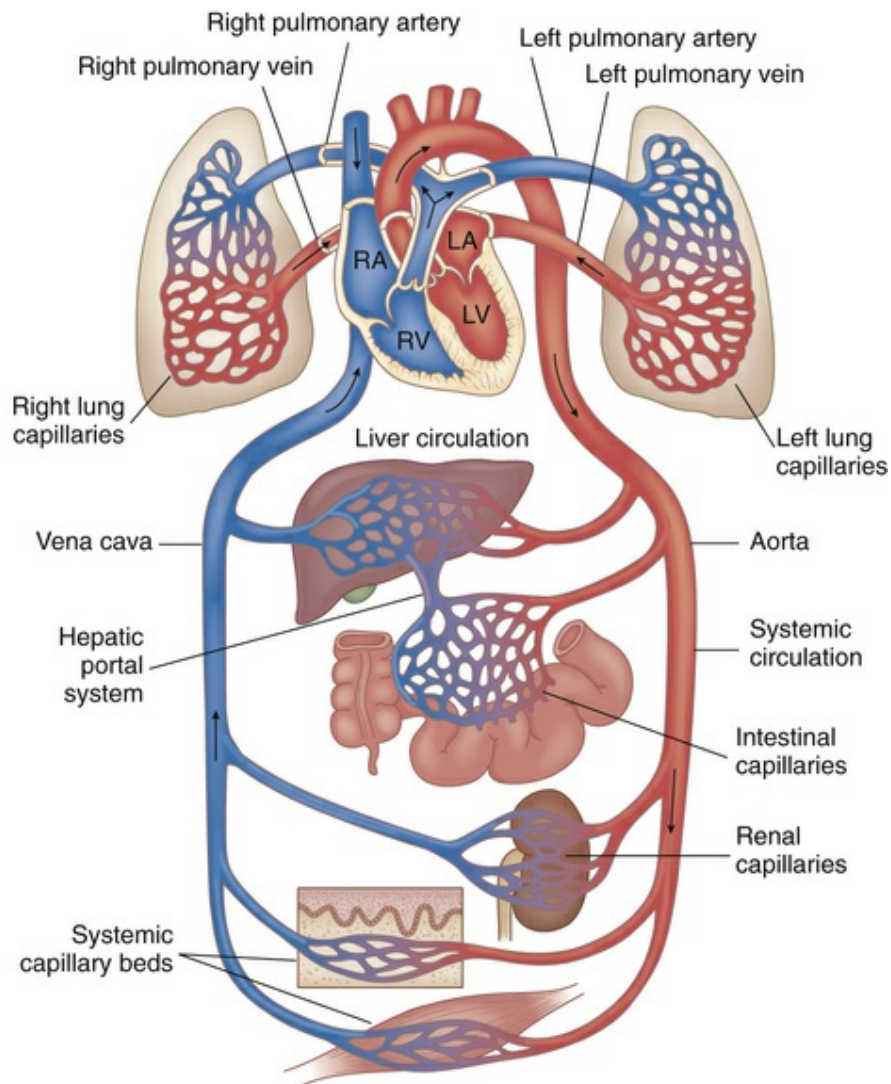


FIG 23-1 Diagram showing serially connected pulmonary and systemic circulatory systems and how to trace the flow of blood. Right heart chambers propel unoxygenated blood through the systemic circulation. LA, Left atrium; LV, left ventricle; RA, right atrium; RV, right ventricle. (From McCance KL, Heuther SE: *Pathophysiology: the biological basis for disease in adults and children*, ed 6, St Louis, 2010, Mosby.)