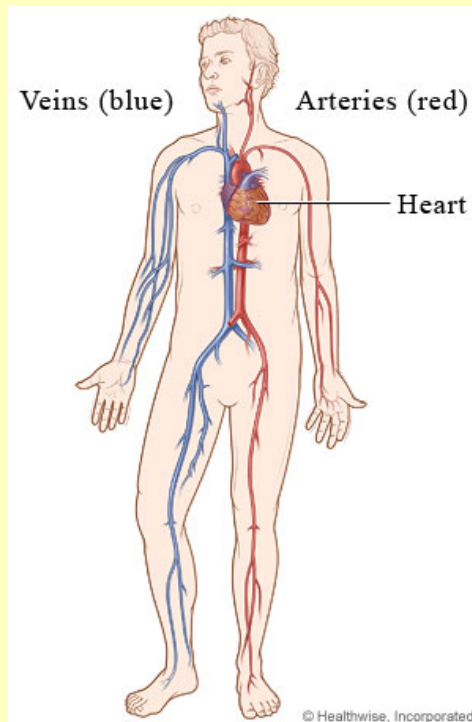


Circulatory System



The circulatory system's primary job is to carry oxygen to and pick up wastes from every cell in the body by pumping blood.

It is made up of the heart, arteries, veins, and capillaries.

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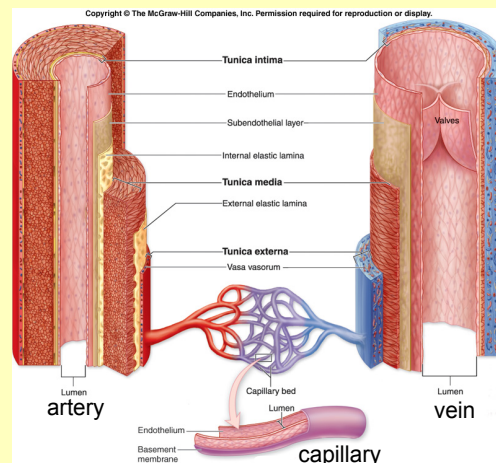
Parts of the Cardiovascular System

1) Heart - made of cardiac muscle, it's about the size of your fist, in the center of the chest. "Cardio-" means having to do with the heart.

2) Arteries - carry blood away from the heart. MOST arteries carry oxygen-rich blood.

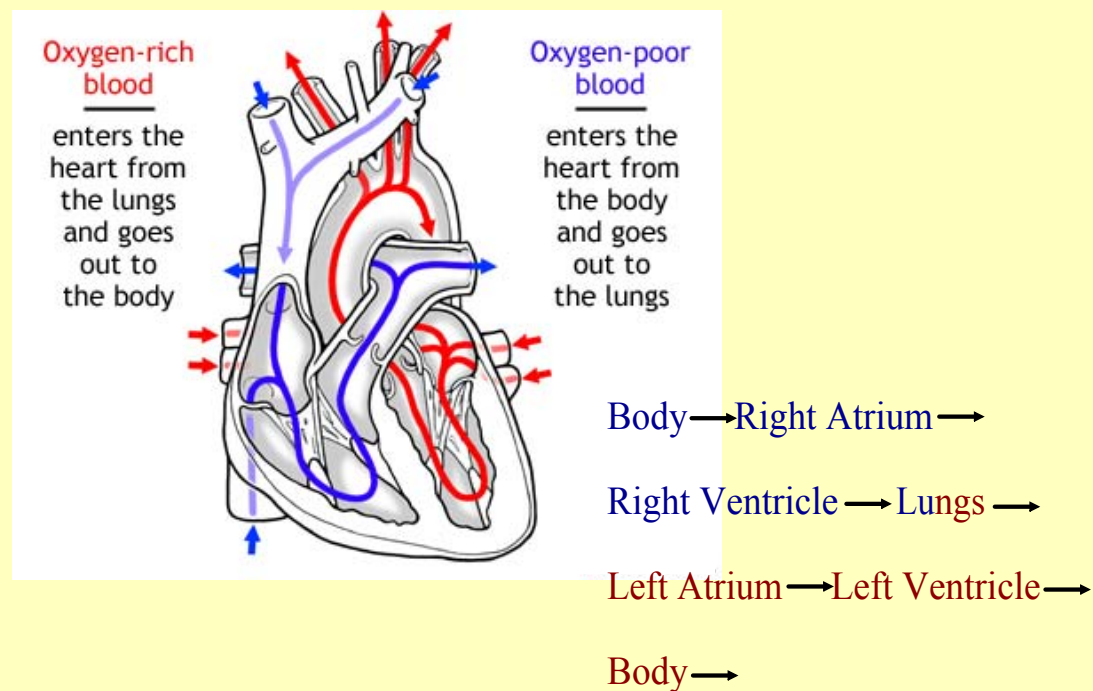
3) Veins - carry blood to the heart. Veins have valves to keep blood from flowing backward. MOST veins carry oxygen-poor blood.

4) Capillaries - tiny blood vessels with walls only one cell thick. Thin walls allows for the exchange of nutrients and wastes.



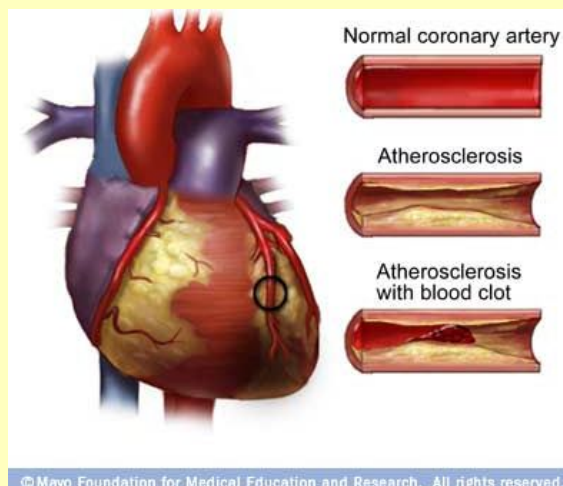
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Blood Flow through the Heart



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Diseases / Disorders



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Atherosclerosis - cholesterol builds up inside blood vessels, reducing the opening in the vessel, and making them less elastic. This causes the heart to work harder and can lead to high blood pressure and...

Heart attack - when arteries delivering blood to the heart muscle cells become blocked, oxygen can't get to the cells. The cells die, and the heart becomes damaged. This can lead to...

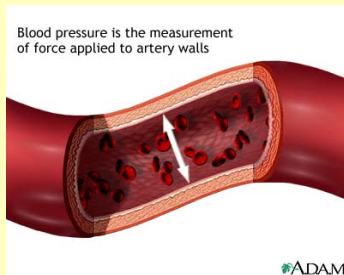
Heart Failure - if too many cells die and the heart becomes too damaged, the heart can't pump enough blood to meet the body's needs. Organs become damaged due to lack of oxygen or nutrients, or to waste buildup.

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Did you know?

Blood pressure is the pressure at which the heart pumps blood into the arteries. Blood pressure usually has two numbers, ____ over _____. The 1st Number is the Systolic Pressure - the pressure made when the heart contracts. The 2nd Number is the Diastolic Pressure - the blood pressure when the heart is relaxed.

Your Pulse is caused by the rhythmic change in blood pressure.



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Attachments

Beating Heart.mpg