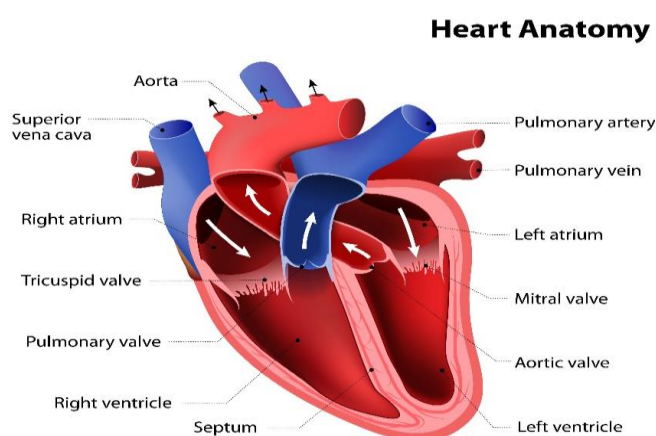


Cardiac Anatomy and Terminology

The cardiopulmonary system includes the heart and lungs and blood vessels that perform the function of pumping and carrying oxygenated blood to the rest of the body. The blood contains nutrients and oxygen to provide energy to allow the cells of the body to perform work.

The heart is actually two pumps in series, one on the right side and one on the left. The



right side of the heart is a smaller, lower pressure pump that receives blood from the body and delivers it to the lungs where the blood gives up carbon dioxide and is replenished with oxygen. The left side of the heart is a larger, more muscular pump and operates at a much higher pressure. It receives the oxygenated blood from the lungs and delivers it back to the body.

The right and left sides of the heart each are made of two chambers. The first chamber, called the atrium, is the upper area blood will then drain into the main pumping chamber called the ventricle. These chambers are separated by a valve (called the mitral valve on the left side of the heart, and the tricuspid valve on the right side of the heart) that prevents the back-flow of blood during contraction of the ventricle. Additional valves are found in the major vessels that carry the blood out of the ventricles (the aortic valve on the left side of the heart and the pulmonic valve on the right side of the heart). These valves also prevent the back-flow of blood.