

The Heart

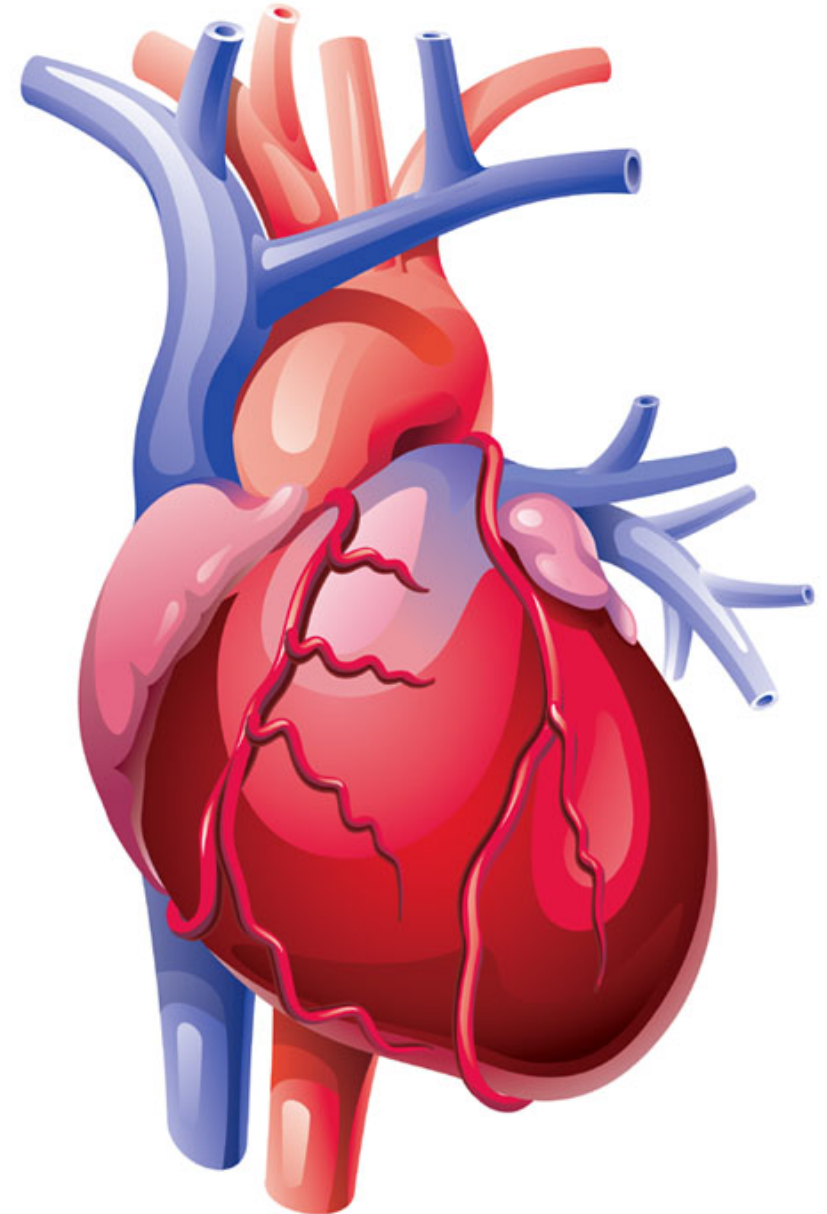
Study*ladder*

What does the heart do?

The heart is the main organ in the circulatory system.

It is a muscular pump.

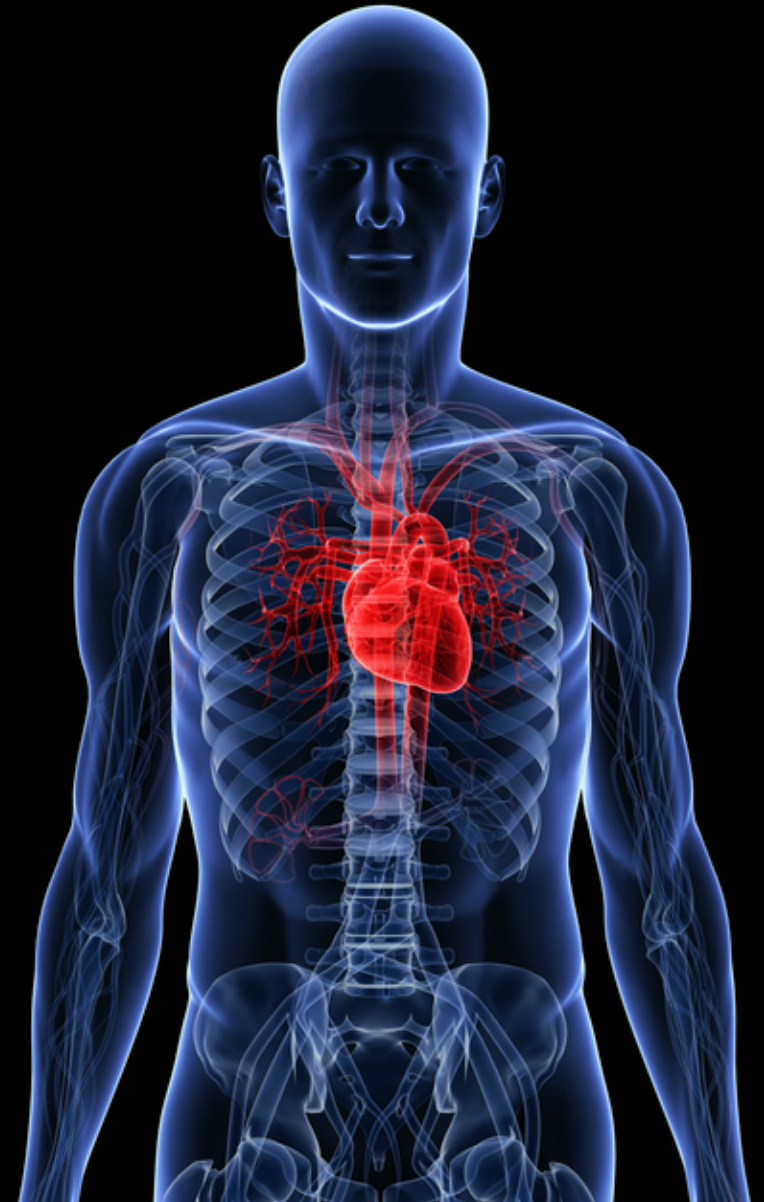
The heart pushes blood throughout the body.



Where is the heart?

The heart lies between the lungs and to the left of the middle of the chest cavity.

It is about the size of your clenched fist.



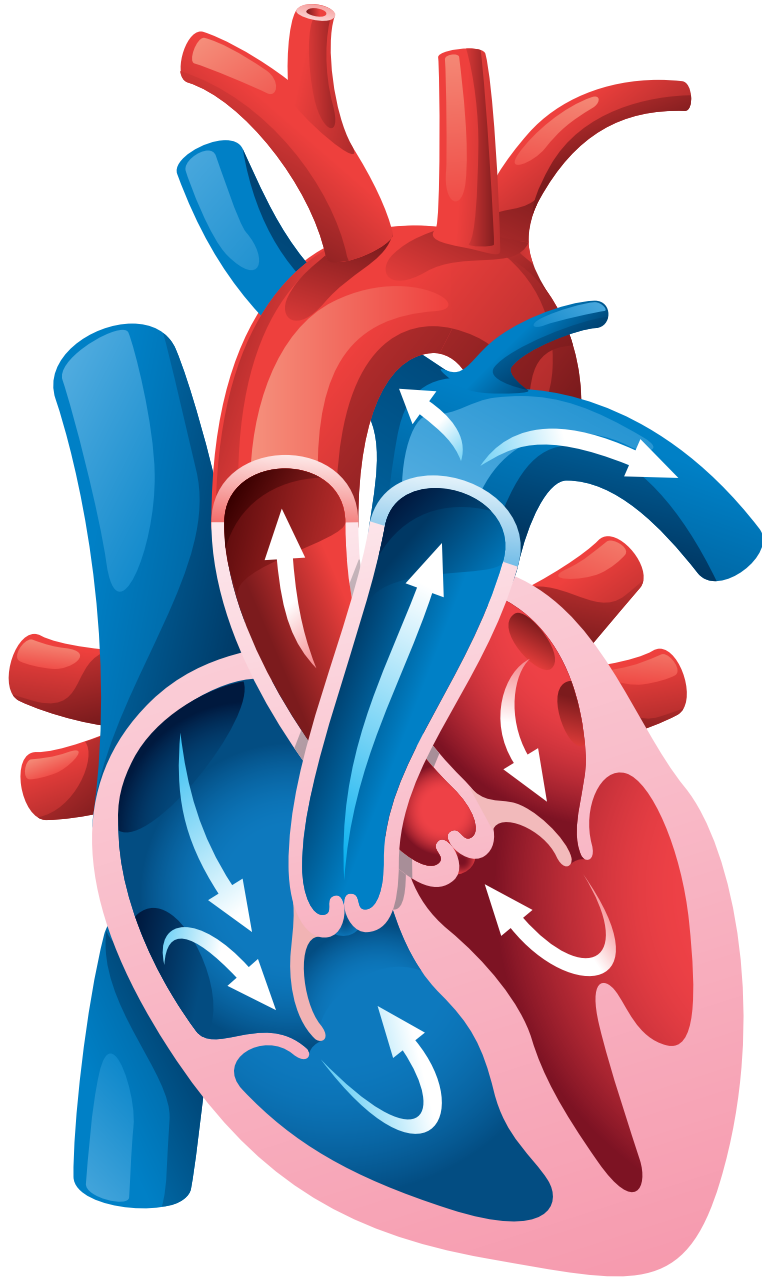
What is your pulse?



When your heart beats it pushes blood through the circulatory system. You can feel the blood pushing through the arteries as a pulse each time the heart beats.

The most common places to feel a pulse are on your wrist and your neck.

Heart Chambers



The heart has four chambers. In the bottom part of the heart are the right and left ventricles, which pump blood out of the heart.

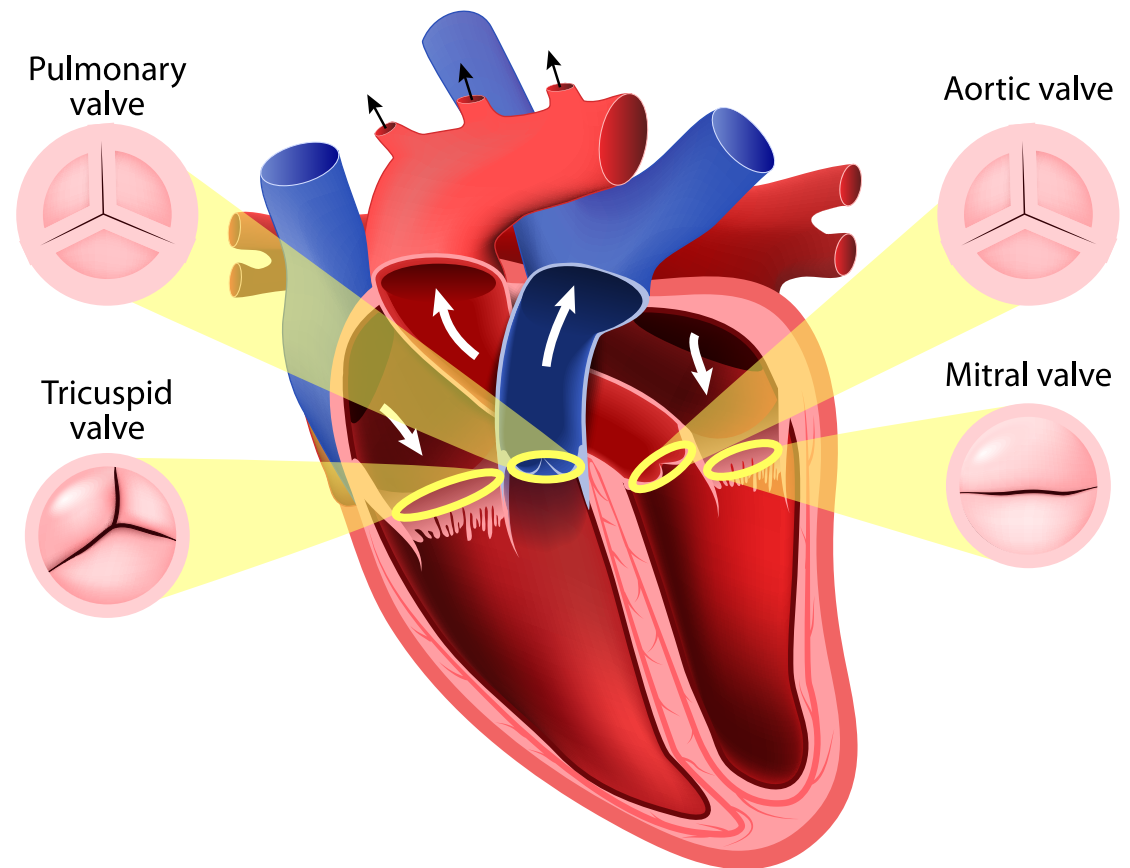
The upper part of the heart is called the right and left atria, which receive the blood entering the heart.

Heart Valves

The heart has four valves, which move blood in one direction throughout the heart.

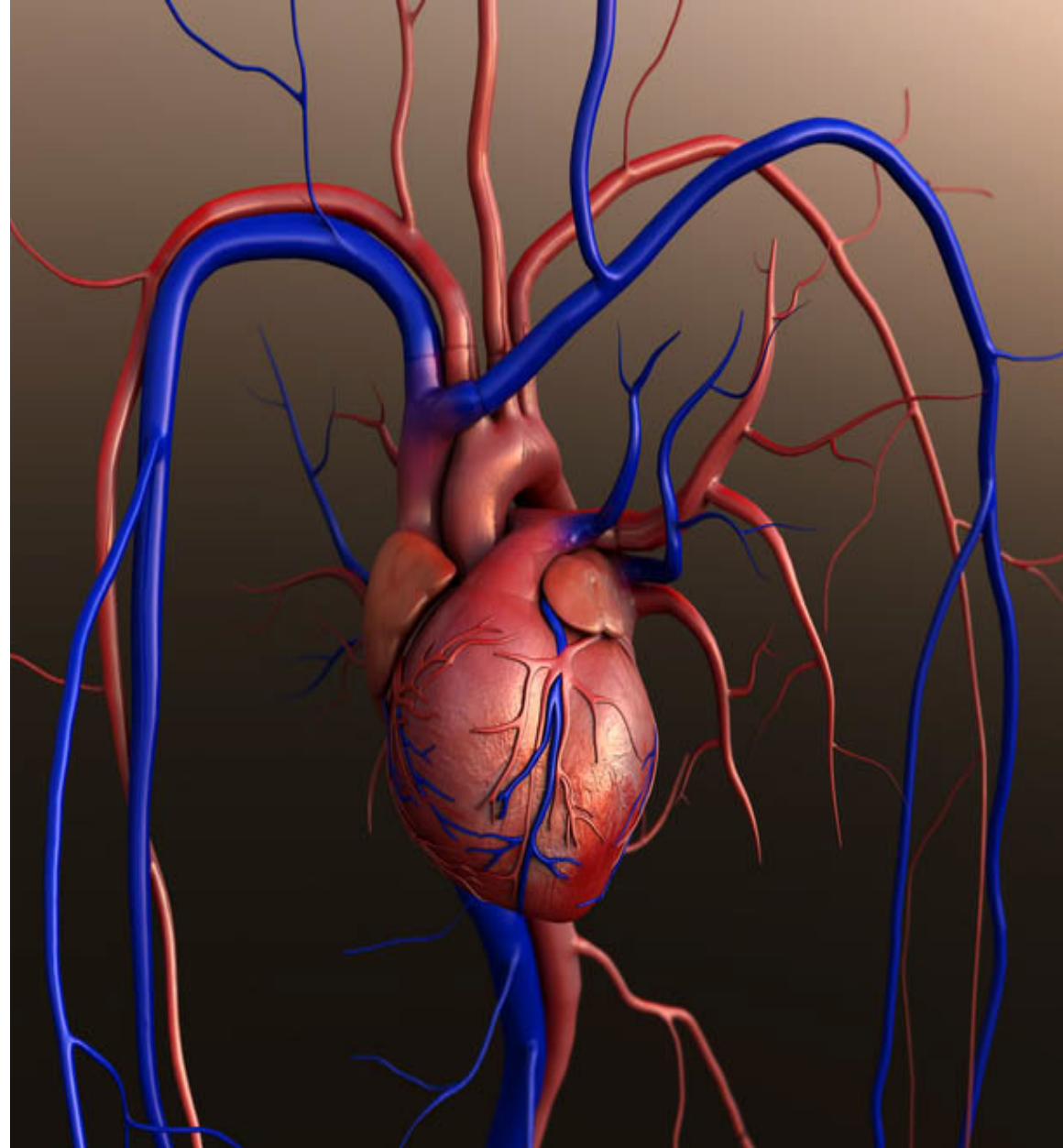
As pressure is applied to the heart, the valves open and close.

A “heartbeat” is the sound of the valves closing as they push blood through its chambers.



Arteries and Veins

Arteries carry blood from the heart to the body's tissues, while veins carry blood back from the tissues to the heart.



Did you know?

The heart beats about
100,000 times a day.
That's about 2.5 billion
times a lifetime!

