



Circulatory System

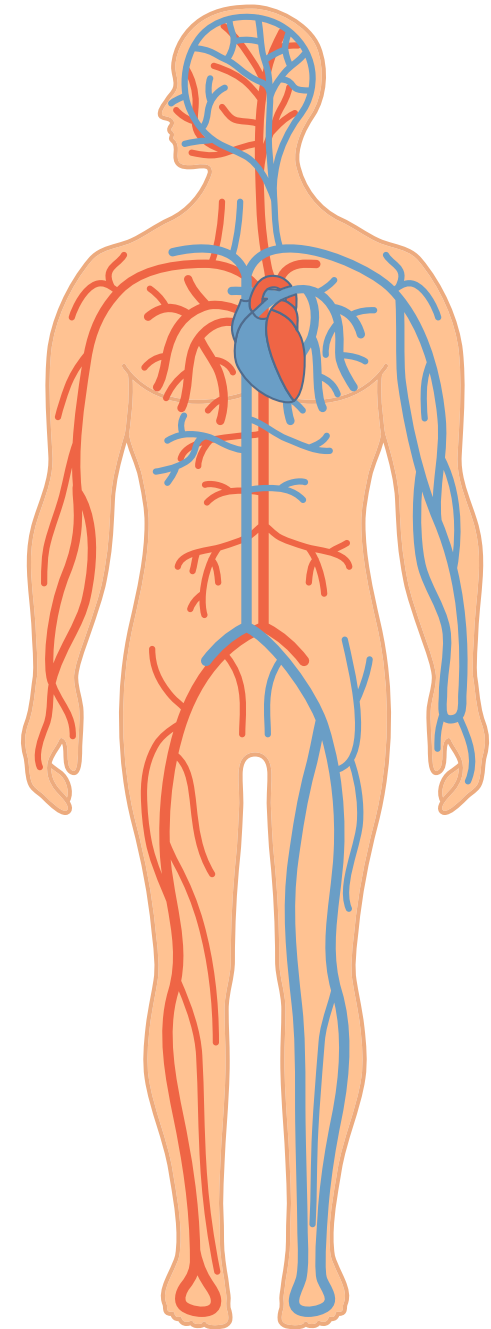
How does blood get to all the parts of the body?



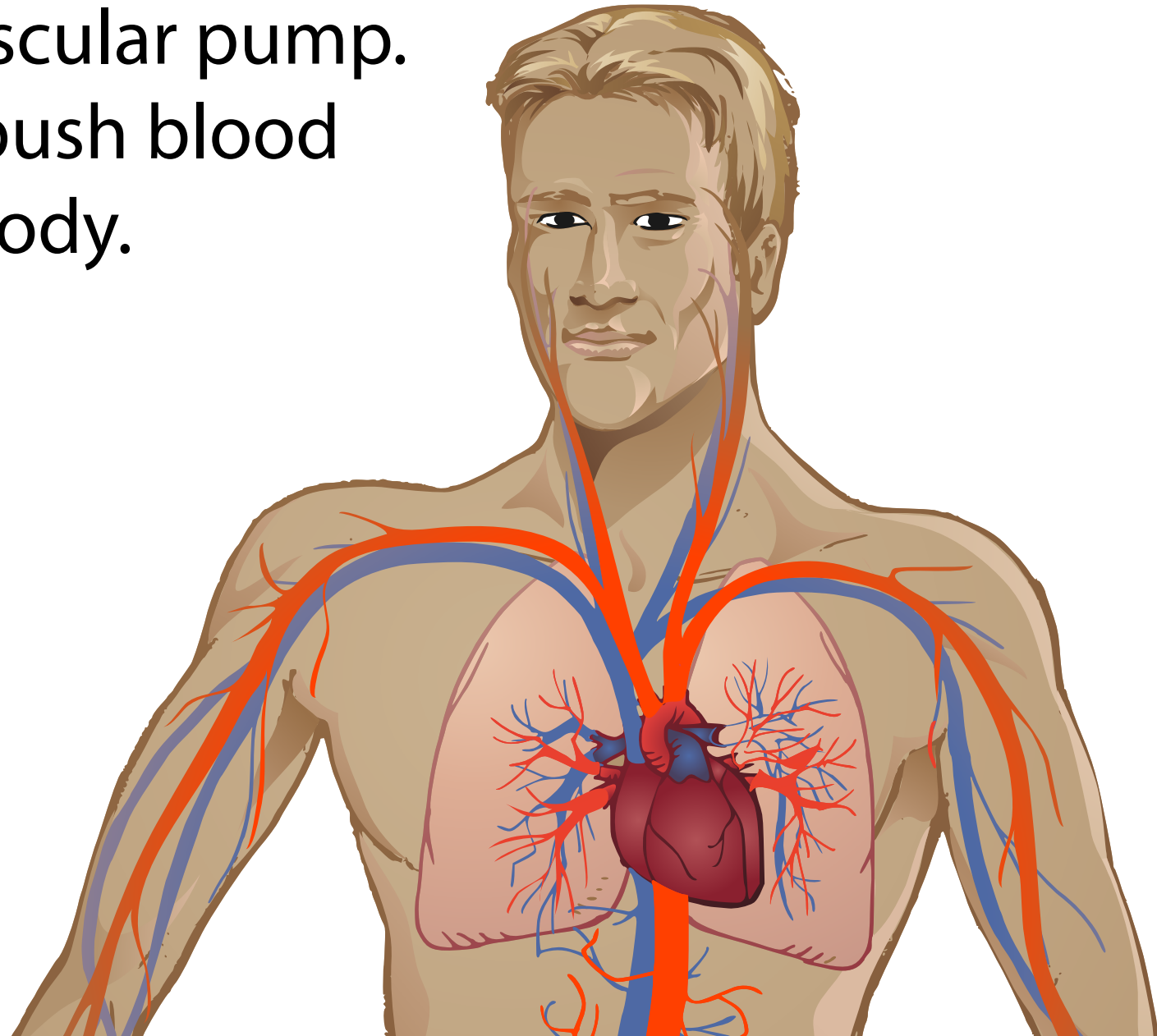
The Circulatory System

The circulatory system makes up the network that delivers blood to the body's cells and tissues.

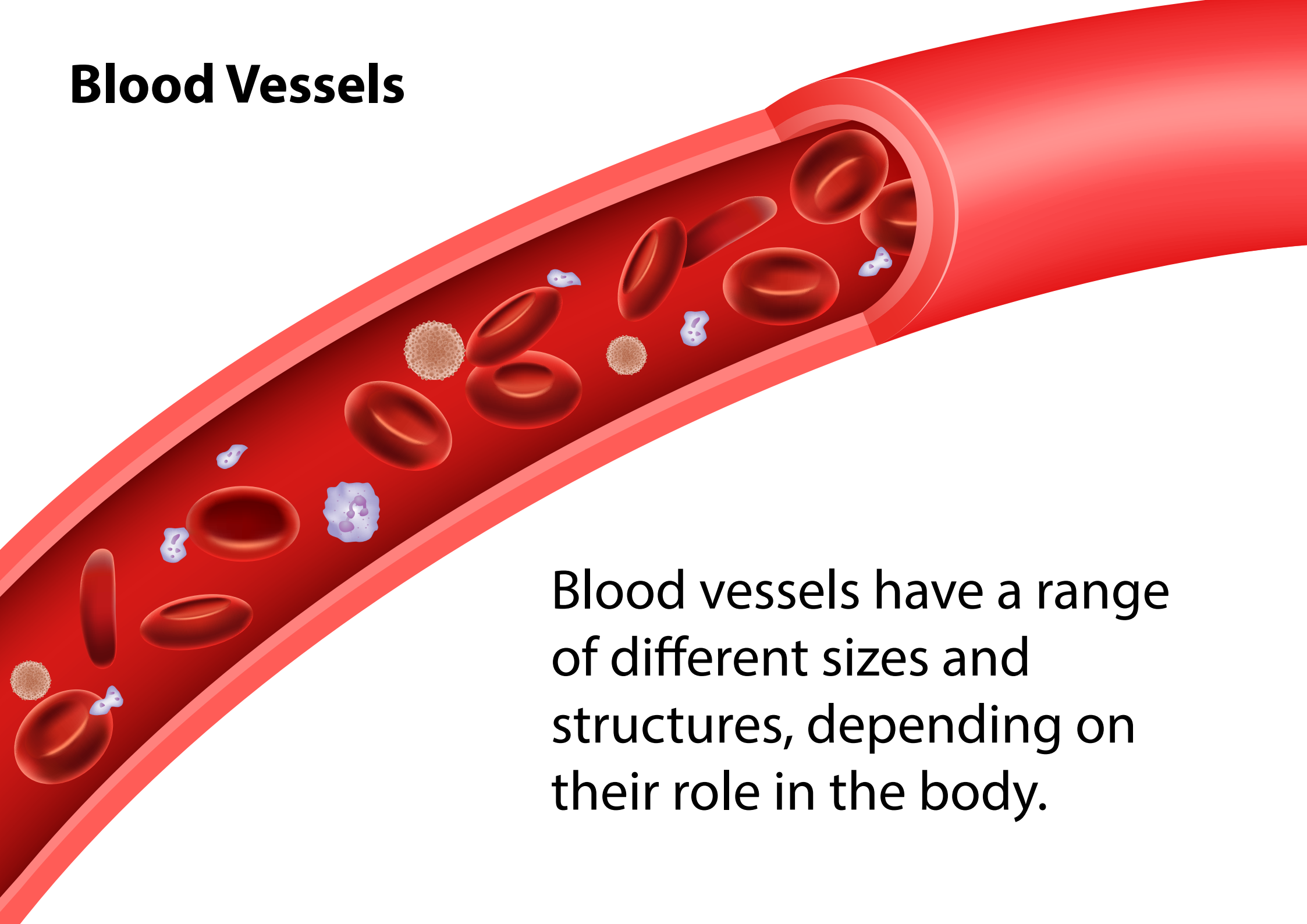
The circulatory system is composed of the heart and blood vessels, including arteries, capillaries and veins.



The heart is the main organ in the circulatory system. The heart is a muscular pump. Its function is to push blood throughout the body.



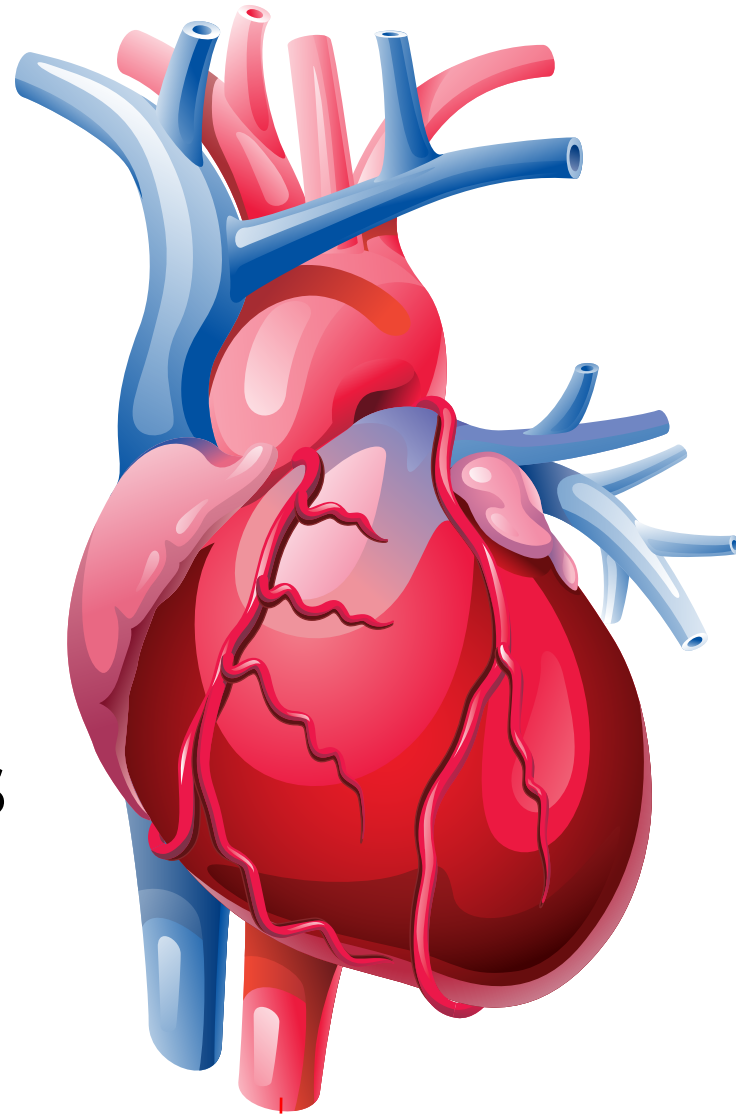
Blood Vessels



Blood vessels have a range of different sizes and structures, depending on their role in the body.

Arteries

Oxygenated blood is pumped from the heart along arteries. Arteries divide like tree branches until they are very thin.

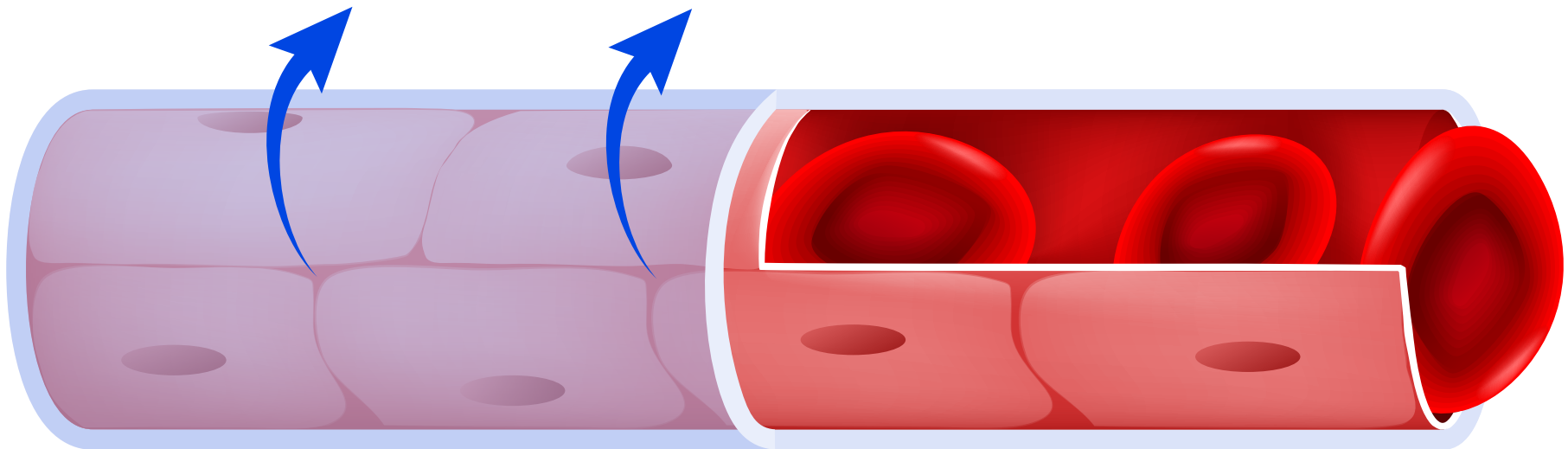


oxygenated blood is
pumped into the body

Capillaries

The arteries eventually divide down into the smallest blood vessel, the capillary. Capillaries are so small that blood cells can only move through them one at a time. Oxygen and food nutrients pass from these capillaries to the cells.

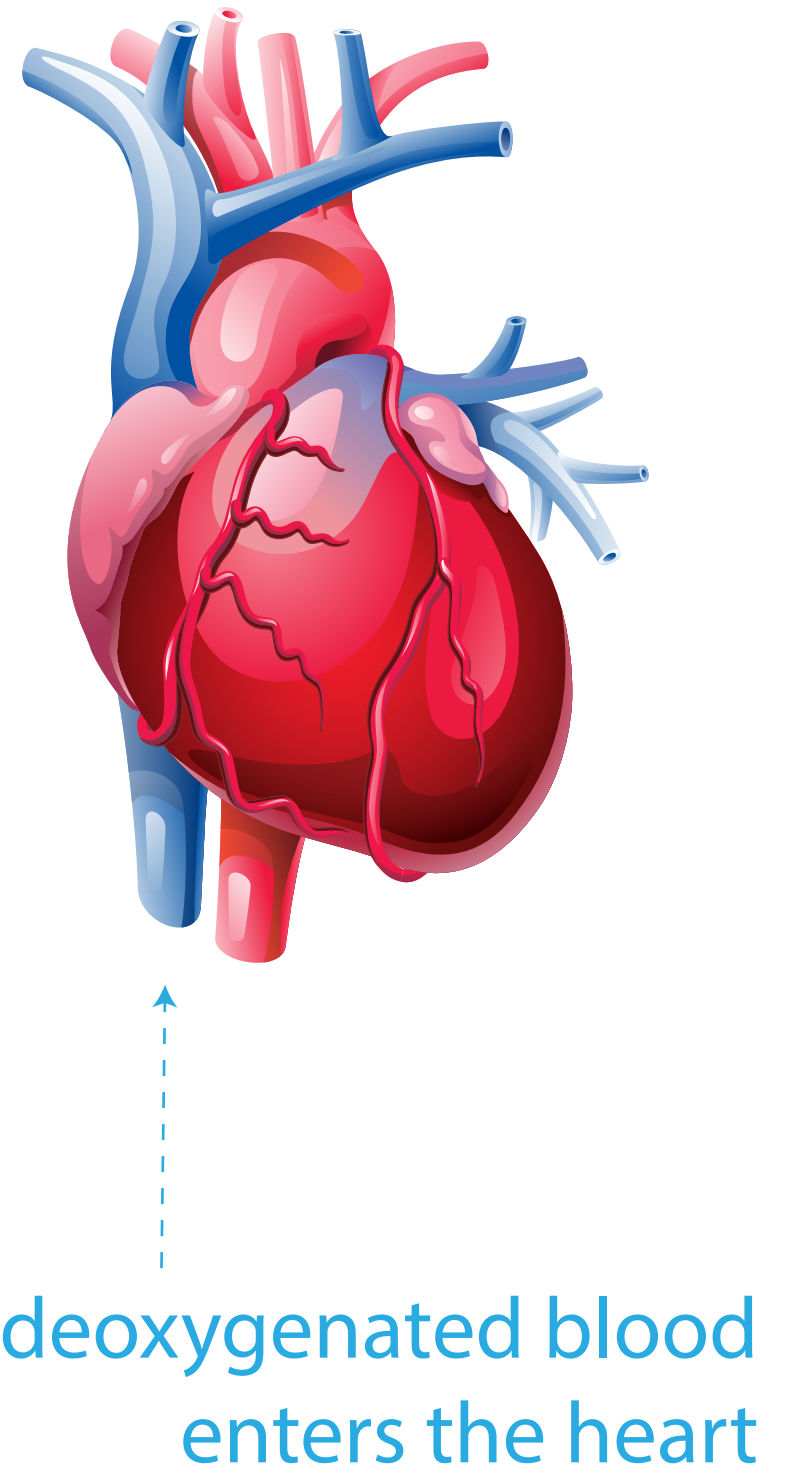
oxygen and nutrients passing to the cells



Veins

Capillaries are also connected to veins, so wastes from the cells can be moved to the blood.

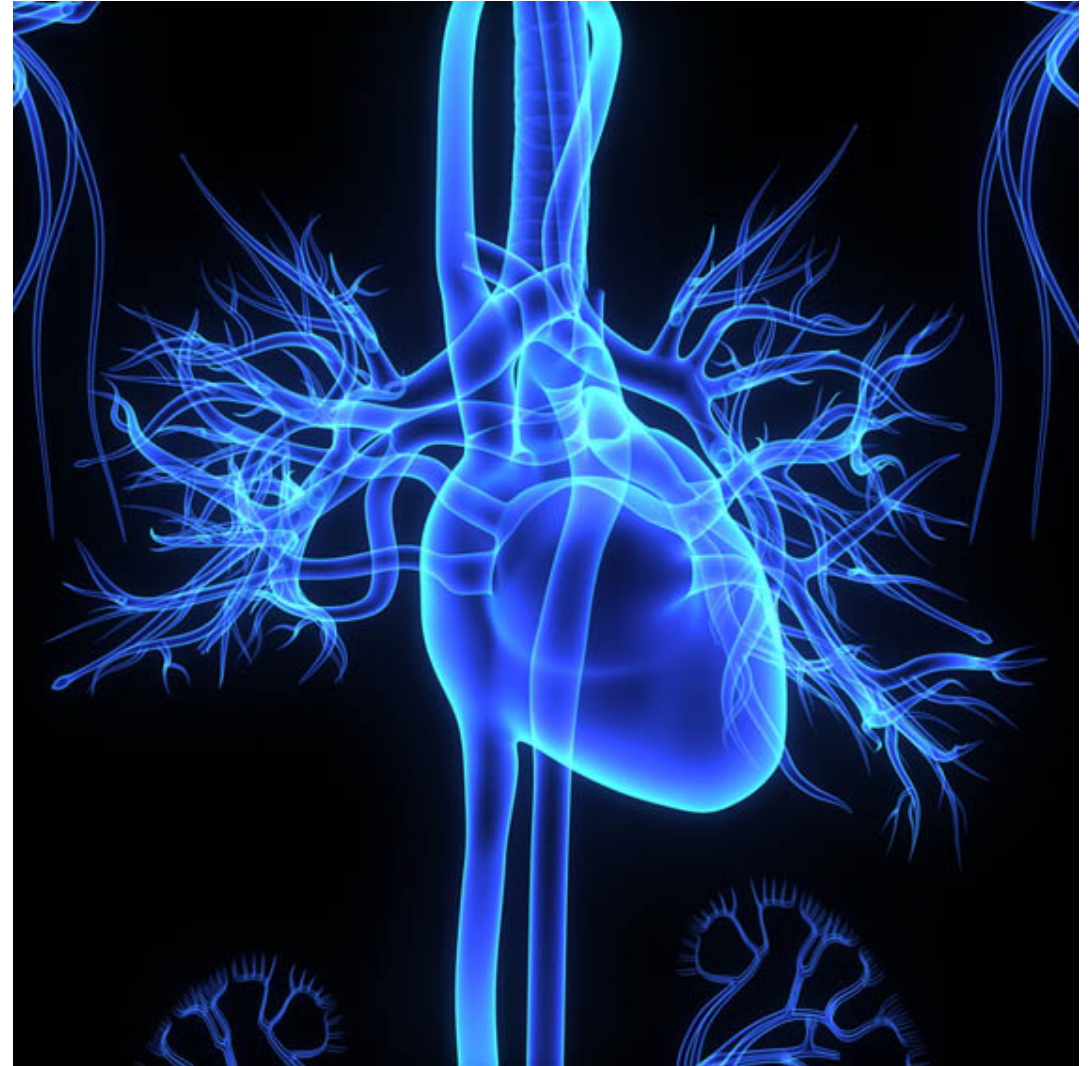
Veins generally carry deoxygenated blood from the body to the heart, where it can be sent to the lungs.



Did you know?

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

We have about 100,000 km of blood vessels linking the cells of our organs and body parts!



Heartbeat

Valves in our heart allow blood to flow only in one direction.

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.

