

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Heart:

- Roughly size of human fist (~ 250 – 350 grams)
- Located in the **mediastinum** (medial cavity of thorax)
- “Double pump” composed of cardiac muscle

Point of maximum intensity

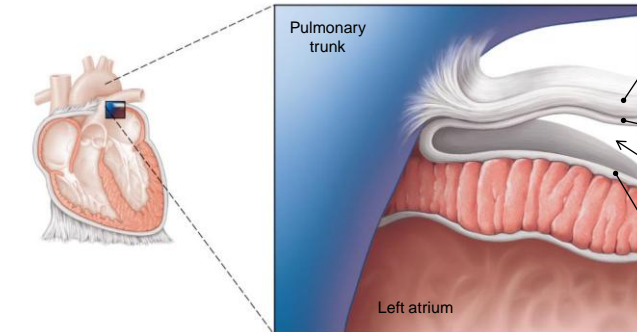
2/3 of heart mass lies left of mid-sternal line

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figures 18.1 / 18.4

Heart:

Pericardial sac: Double-walled sac enclosing the heart

Cardiac Tamponade:
Compression of heart due to fluid / blood build up in pericardial cavity



Fibrous pericardium

- Protects heart
- Anchors heart
- Prevents overfilling

Parietal pericardium

Pericardial cavity

- Contains serous fluid (friction-free environment)

Visceral pericardium

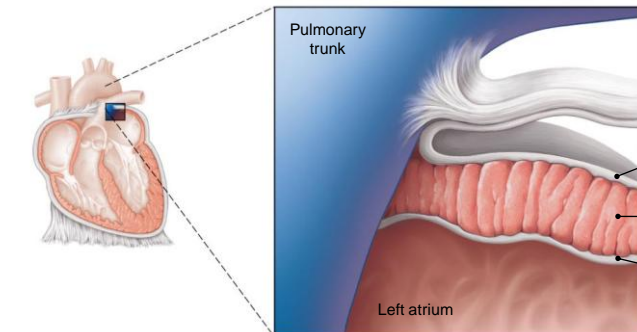
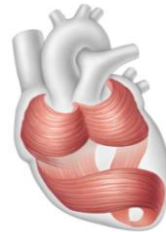


Pericarditis:
Inflammation of the pericardial sac

Heart:

Heart layers:

- Anchors cardiac fibers
- Reinforces heart structures
- Directs electrical signals



Epicardium

- Often infiltrated with fat

Myocardium

- Contains fibrous skeleton

Endocardium

Heart – Chambers, Vessels & Valves

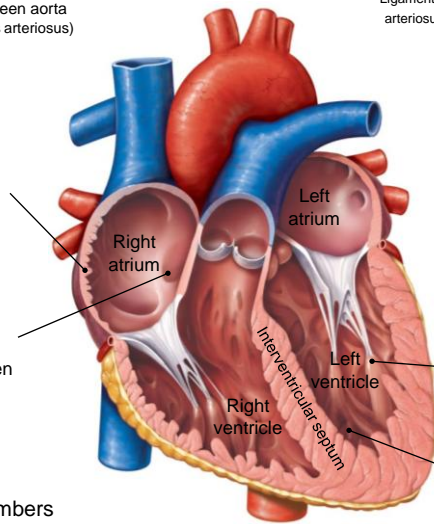
Ligamentum arteriosum:
Remnant of fetal duct between aorta and pulmonary trunk (ductus arteriosus)

Pectinate muscles:
Muscle bundles; assist in atrial contraction

Fossa ovalis:
Shallow depression; remnants of hole between atria in fetal heart

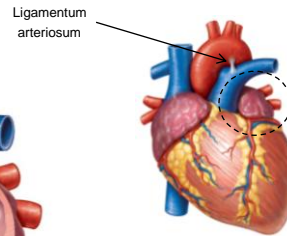
Ventricles:

- Discharging chambers
- Large, thick-walled



Atria:

- Receiving chambers
- Small, thin-walled



Auricles: ('little ears')
Increase atrial volume

Papillary muscle:
Cone-like muscle; assists in valve closure

Trabeculae carneae:
Muscle ridges; assist in maintaining momentum

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.4

Heart – Chambers, Vessels & Valves

Superior vena cava
Returns blood above diaphragm

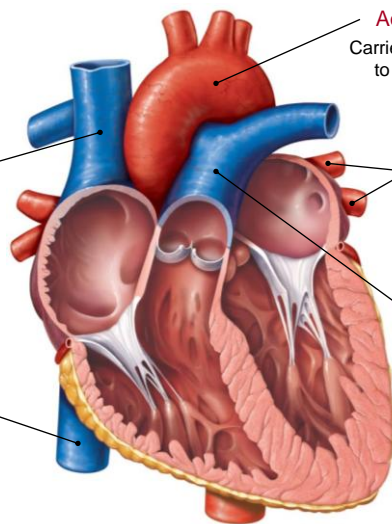
Inferior vena cava
Returns blood below diaphragm

(largest artery in body)

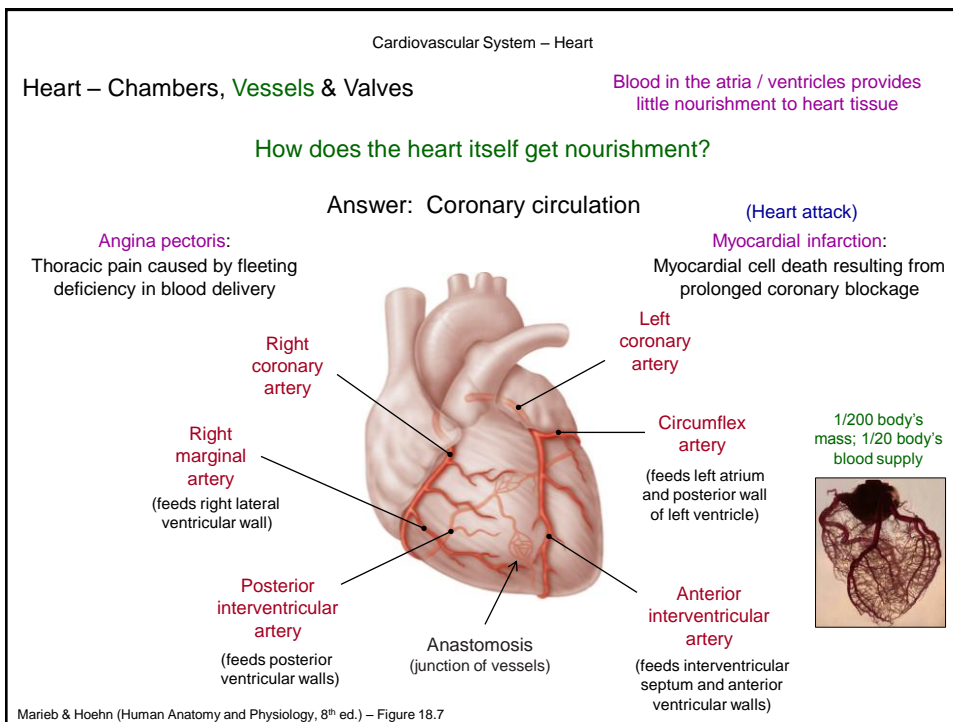
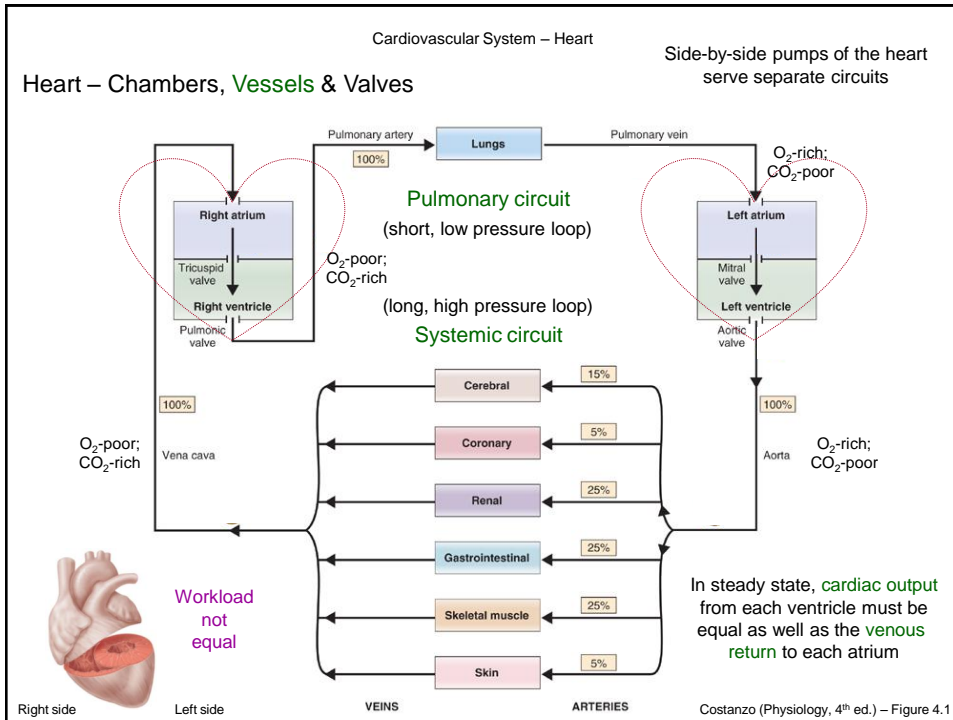
Aorta
Carries blood to body

Pulmonary veins (4)
Returns blood from lungs

Pulmonary trunk
Carries blood to lungs



Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.4



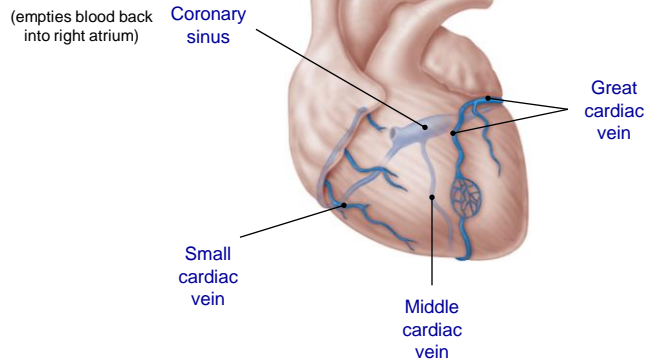
Heart – Chambers, **Vessels** & Valves

Blood in the atria / ventricles provides little nourishment to heart tissue

How does the heart itself get nourishment?

Answer: Coronary circulation

Coronary circulation delivery limited to when heart is relaxed...

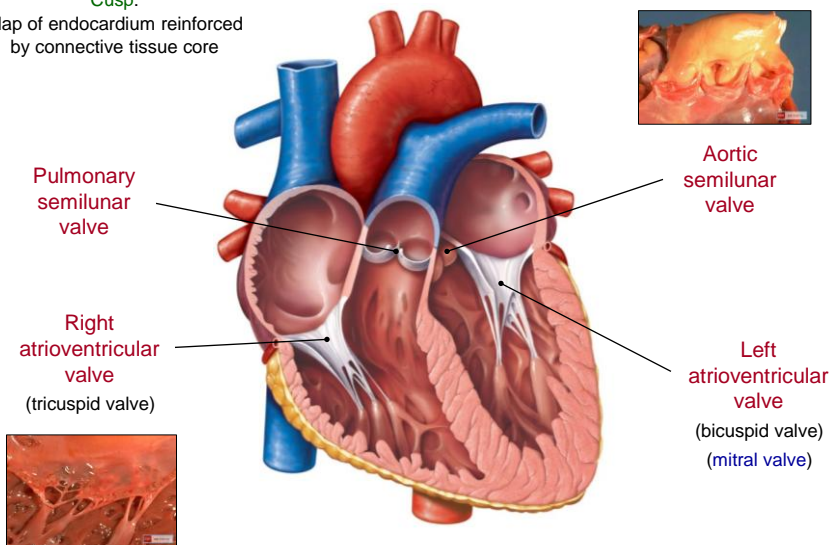


Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.7

Heart – Chambers, **Vessels** & Valves

Blood flows through the heart in a single direction due to the presence of valves

Cusp:
Flap of endocardium reinforced by connective tissue core



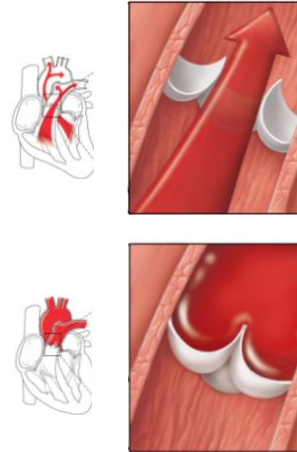
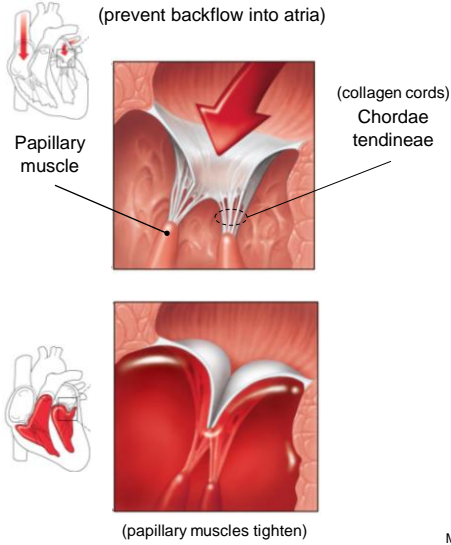
Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.4

Heart – Chambers, Vessels & Valves

Valves open / close based on pressure differences

Atrioventricular valves
(prevent backflow into atria)

Semilunar valves
(prevent backflow into ventricles)



Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figures 18.9 / 18.10

Heart – Chambers, Vessels & Valves

Pathophysiology:

Valvular Regurgitation:

Valve does not close properly;
blood regurgitated

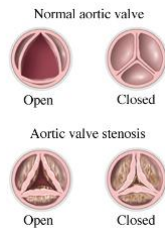
Causes:

- Congenitally deformed valve
- Post-inflammatory scarring
 - Infective endocarditis
- Rupture of cord / muscle



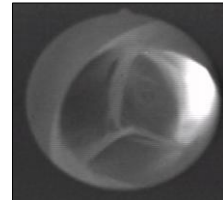
Valvular stenosis:

Valve flaps become stiff;
opening constricted

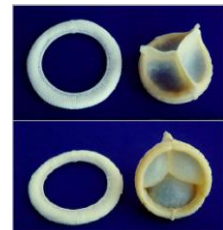


Causes:

- Congenitally deformed valve
- Post-inflammatory scarring
- Calcification of valve



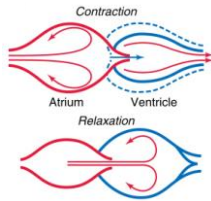
Aortic semilunar valve (pig)



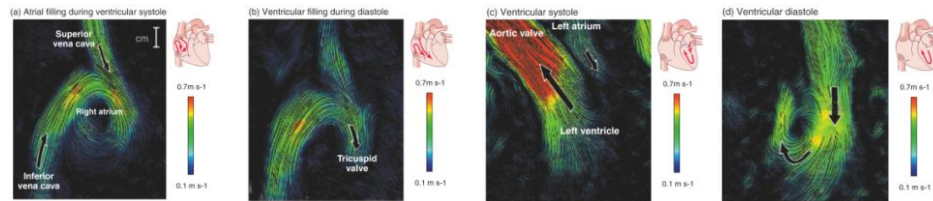
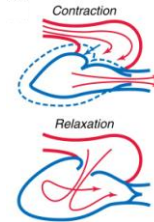
Treatment = Valve replacement

Heart – Chambers, Vessels & Valves

Heart designed to create complex flow patterns
(direct / maintain blood momentum)



- 1) Chambers arranged in loop pattern
- 2) Delivery vessels curved
- 3) Grooves / ridges within chambers

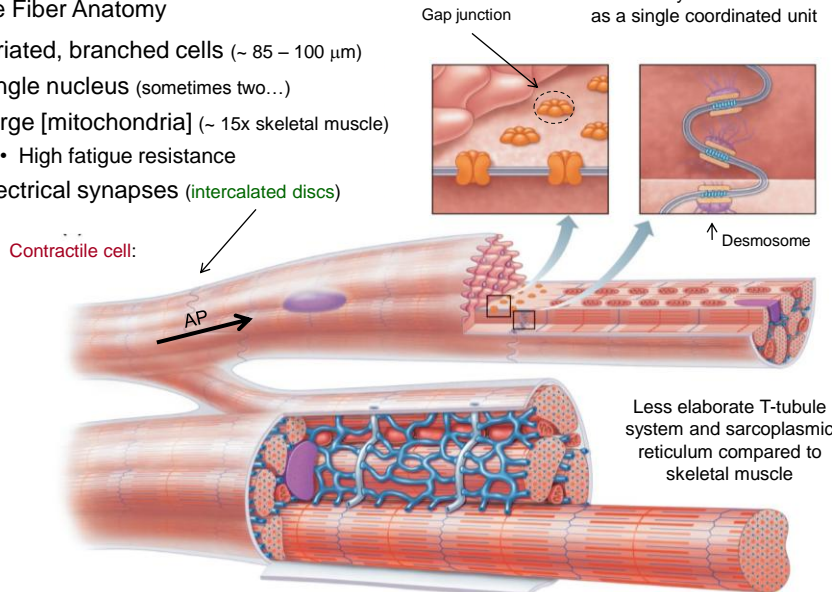


Randall et al. (Animal Physiology, 5th ed.) – Figures 12.4 / 12.10

Muscle Fiber Anatomy

- Striated, branched cells (~ 85 – 100 μm)
- Single nucleus (sometimes two...)
- Large [mitochondria] (~ 15x skeletal muscle)
 - High fatigue resistance
- Electrical synapses (intercalated discs)

Functional syncytium:
The entire myocardium behaves as a single coordinated unit



Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.11

Cardiac Electrophysiology

System allows for orderly, sequential depolarization and contraction of heart

Intrinsic Conduction System:

Conducting cells:

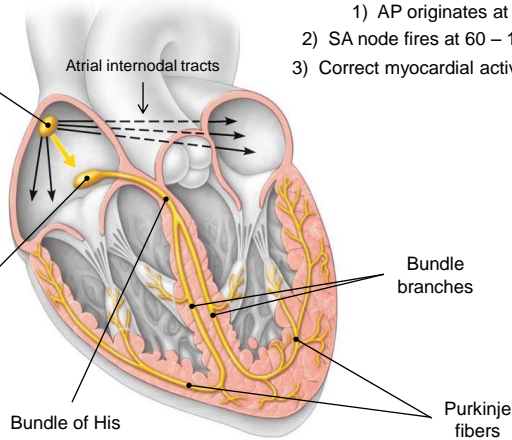
- Cardiac cells specialized to quickly spread action potentials across myocardium
- Weak force generators

Normal sinus rhythm:

- 1) AP originates at SA node
- 2) SA node fires at 60 – 100 beats / min
- 3) Correct myocardial activation sequence

- Sinoatrial node: (SA node)**
- Located in right atrial wall
 - Initiates action potentials (APs)
 - Pacemaker (~ 80 beats / min)

- Atrioventricular node: (AV Node)**
- Connects atria to ventricles
 - Slowed conduction velocity
 - Ventricular filling

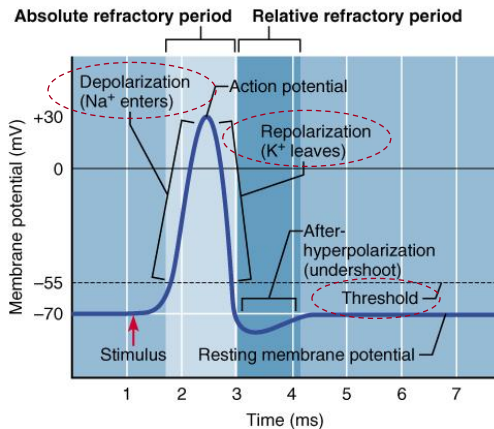


Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.14

Cardiac Electrophysiology

The concepts applied to cardiac APs are the same concepts as applied to APs in nerves / skeletal muscle

Review:

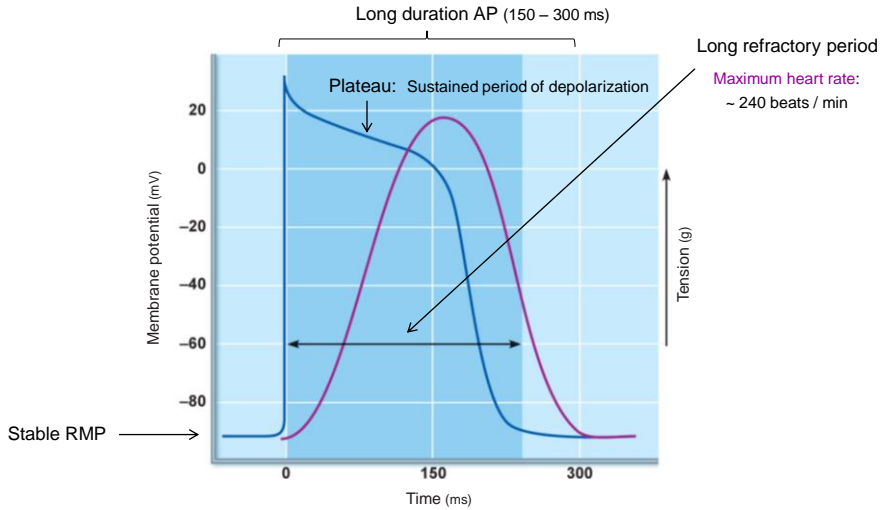
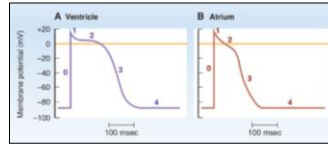


- Membrane potential determined by relative conductances / concentrations of permeable ions
- Ions flow down electrochemical gradient toward equilibrium potential (Nernst equation)
- Membrane potential expressed in mV; inside cell expressed relative to outside
- Resting membrane potential determined primarily by K^+ ions (leaky K^+ gates at rest)
- Na^+ / K^+ pumps maintain [gradients] across membranes
- Changes in membrane potential caused by flow of ions into / out of cell
- **Threshold potential** represents the point at which a depolarization even becomes self-sustaining (voltage-gated channels)

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 11.14

Cardiac Electrophysiology

APs of Atria, Ventricles & Purkinje System:



Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.12

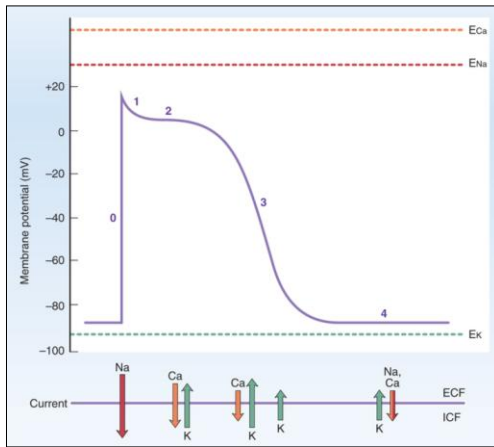
Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.12

Cardiac Electrophysiology

APs of Atria, Ventricles & Purkinje System:

g_x = conductance
 VG = voltage-gated

Phases of the Action Potential:



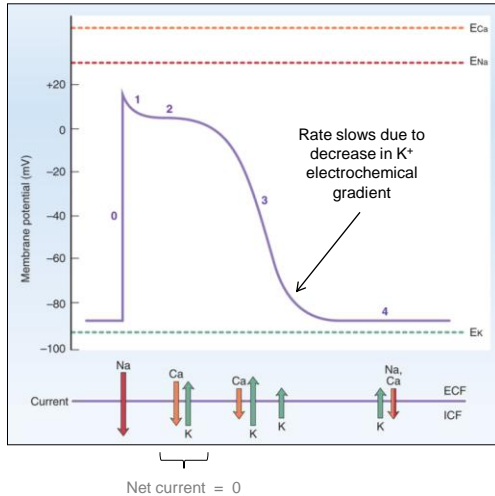
Net current = 0

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.13

- Phase 0 – Upstroke**
 - Period of rapid depolarization
 - Na^+ enters via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{Na}}$)
- Phase 1 – Initial repolarization**
 - Brief period of repolarization
 - Na^+ channels close ($\downarrow g_{\text{Na}}$)
 - K^+ exits via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{K}}$)
 - Steep electrochemical gradient \rightarrow
- Phase 2 – Plateau**
 - Stable, depolarized membrane potential
 - K^+ exits via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{K}}$)
 - (L-type) • Ca^{2+} enters via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{Ca}}$)
 - Ca^{2+} entry initiates release of more Ca^{2+} from intracellular stores (excitation-contraction coupling)

Cardiac Electrophysiology

APs of Atria, Ventricles & Purkinje System:



Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.13

g_x = conductance

VG = voltage-gated

Phases of the Action Potential:

Phase 3 – Repolarization

- Period of rapid repolarization
 - Ca^{2+} channels close ($\downarrow g_{\text{Ca}}$)
 - K^+ exits via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{K}}$)

Phase 4 – Resting membrane potential

- Membrane potential stabilizes
 - All VG channels closed
 - K^+ exits via “leaky” channels
 - Na^+ / K^+ pumps restore [gradients]

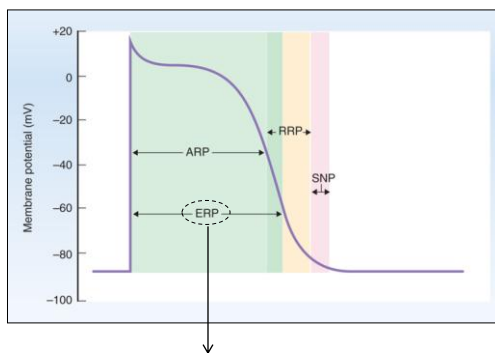
Changes in RMP (due to [gradient] issues) directly affect responsiveness of heart

of VG Na^+ channels available to respond decreases as RMP becomes more (+)

Cardiac dysrhythmia = irregular heartbeat

Cardiac Electrophysiology

APs of Atria, Ventricles & Purkinje System:



Effective refractory period (ERP)
(not enough Na^+ channels have recovered)

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.15

Refractory Periods:

Absolute refractory period (ARP)

- Na^+ channels closed (reset at ~ -50 mV)

Relative refractory period (RRP)

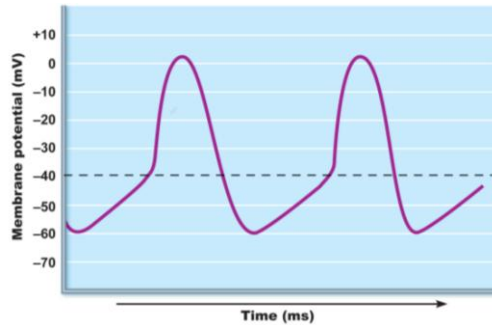
- Greater than normal stimulus required to generate AP (some Na^+ channels recovered)

Supranormal period (SNP)

- Cell is more excitable than normal due
 - Full Na^+ channel recovery
 - Potential closer to threshold than at rest

Cardiac Electrophysiology

APs of the Sinoatrial Node:



Pacemaker of the Heart:

- 1) Exhibits automaticity (spontaneous AP generation)
- 2) Unstable resting membrane potential
- 3) No sustained plateau

Phase 0 – Upstroke

- Slower than other cardiac tissue
- (T-type) • Ca^{++} enters via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{Ca}}$)

Phase 1 / Phase 2

Absent

Phase 3 – Repolarization

- Similar to other cardiac cells

Phase 4 – Spontaneous depolarization

- Accounts for automaticity of SA node
- Na^+ enters via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{Na}}$)
 - Open via repolarization event

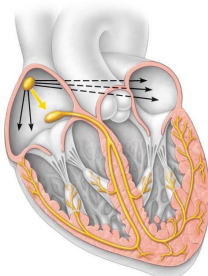
Once threshold reached, VG Ca^{2+} channels open (return to Phase 0)

- Rate of depolarization sets heart rate

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.13

Cardiac Electrophysiology

Other myocardial cells also have the capacity for spontaneous phase 4 depolarization; these are called **latent pacemakers**



Location	Intrinsic firing rate (impulses / min)	
Sinoatrial node	70 – 80	The pacemaker with the fastest rate controls the heart rate
Atrioventricular node	40 – 60	
Bundle of His	40	
Purkinje fibers	15 – 20	

Overdrive suppression:

Latent pacemakers own capacity to spontaneously depolarize is suppressed by the SA node.

Ectopic pacemaker: Latent pacemaker takes over and becomes the pacemaker

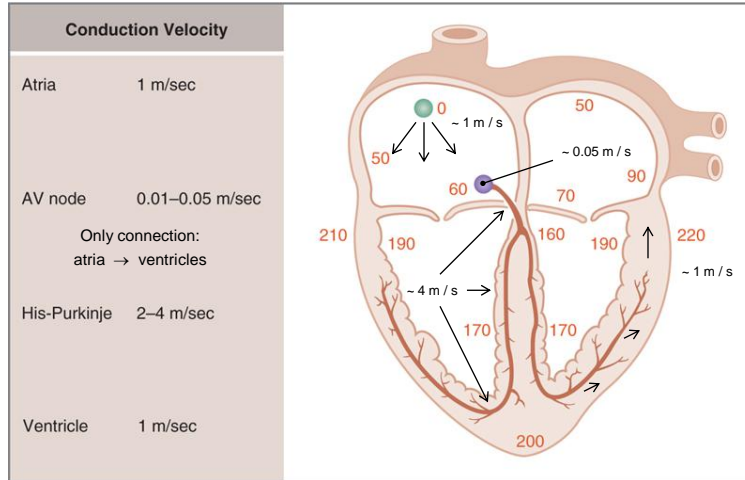
- 1) SA node firing rate decreases (e.g., damage / drug suppression)
- 2) Intrinsic rate of latent pacemakers increases
- 3) Blockage in normal conduction pathway (e.g., disease)

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.14

Cardiac Electrophysiology

Allows for proper timing of heart events

Conduction velocity (speed at which APs propagate in tissues) differs among myocardial tissues

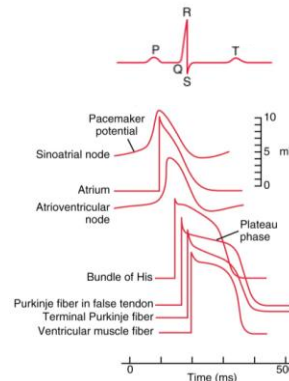
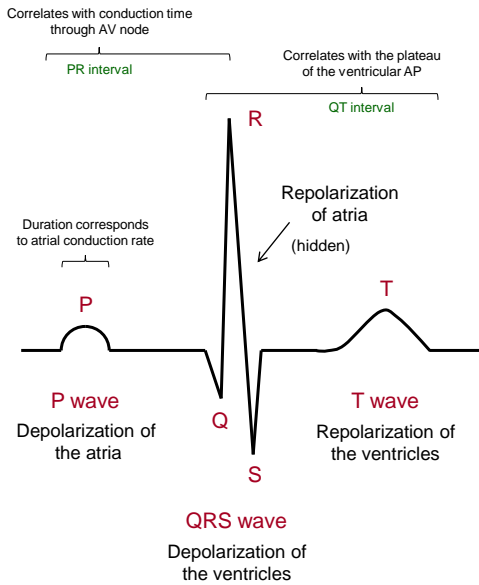


Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.14

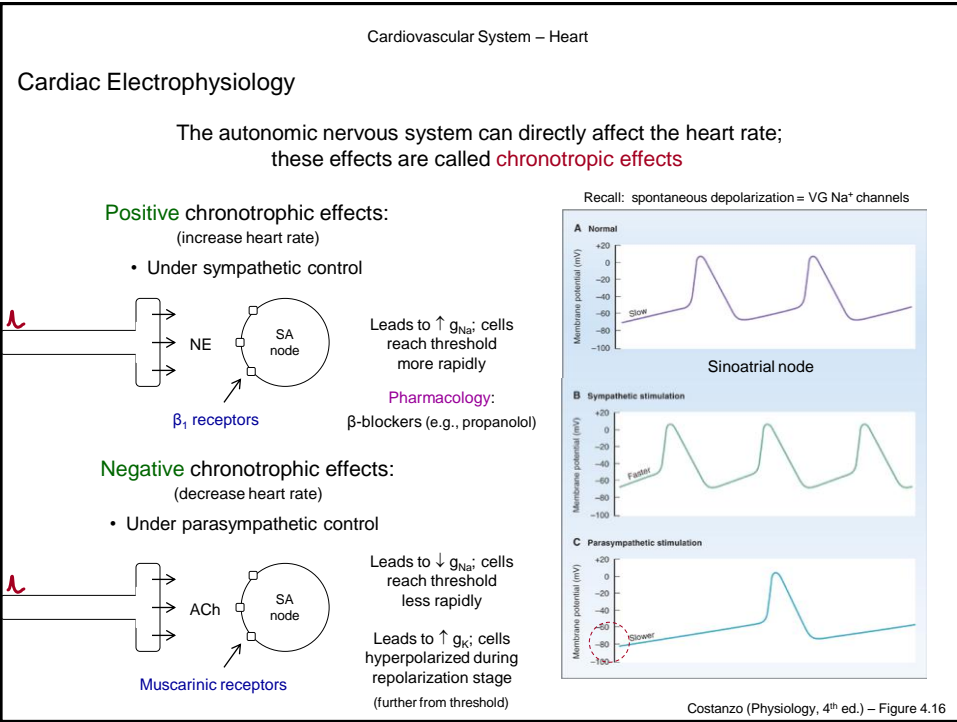
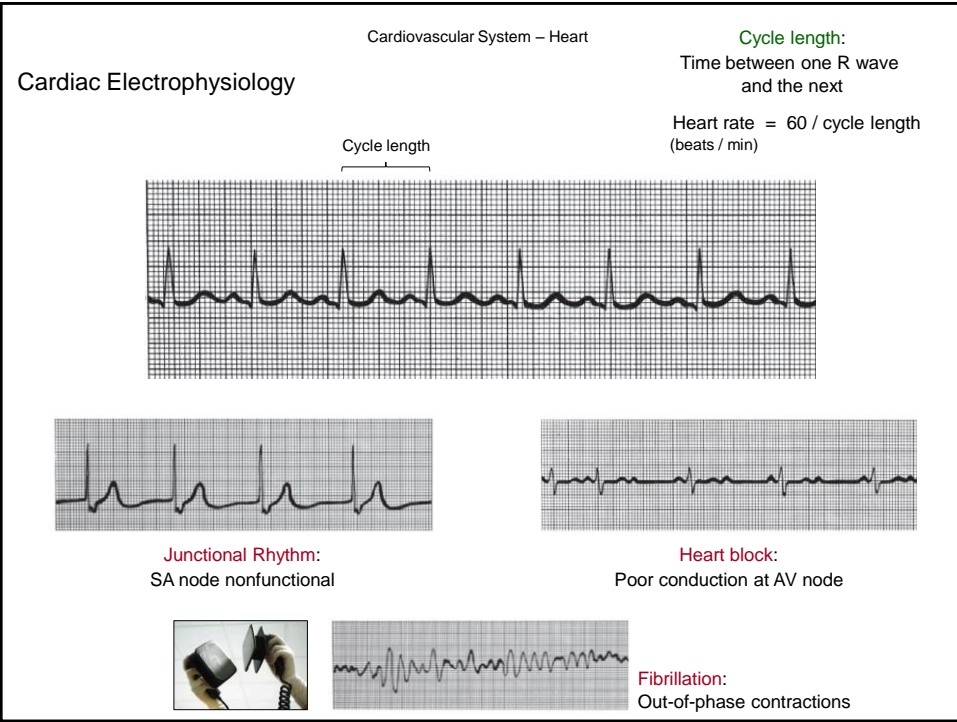
Cardiac Electrophysiology



Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG):
Graphical recording of electrical currents generated and transmitted through heart



Randall et al. (Animal Physiology, 5th ed.) – Figure 12.8



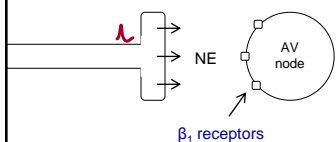
Cardiac Electrophysiology

The autonomic nervous system can also directly conduction velocity at the AV node; these effects are called **dromotropic effects**

Positive dromotropic effects:

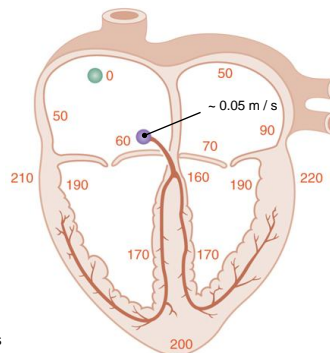
(increase conduction velocity)

- Under sympathetic control



Leads to $\uparrow g_{Ca}$; cells depolarize more rapidly following threshold

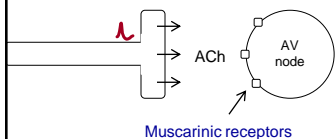
Recall: AV node slow point in intrinsic conduction pathway



Negative dromotropic effects:

(decrease conduction velocity)

- Under parasympathetic control



Leads to $\downarrow g_{Ca}$ & $\uparrow g_K$; cells depolarize more slowly following threshold

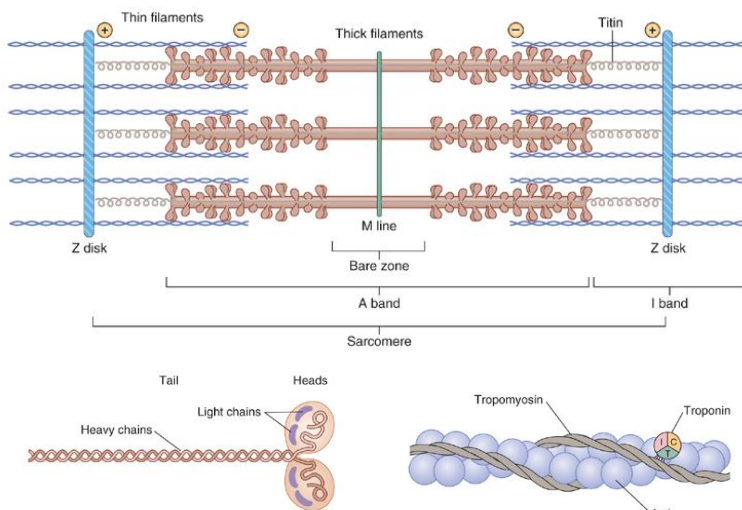
Heart block:
Signals fail to be conducted at AV node

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.14

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Contraction occurs according to sliding filament model

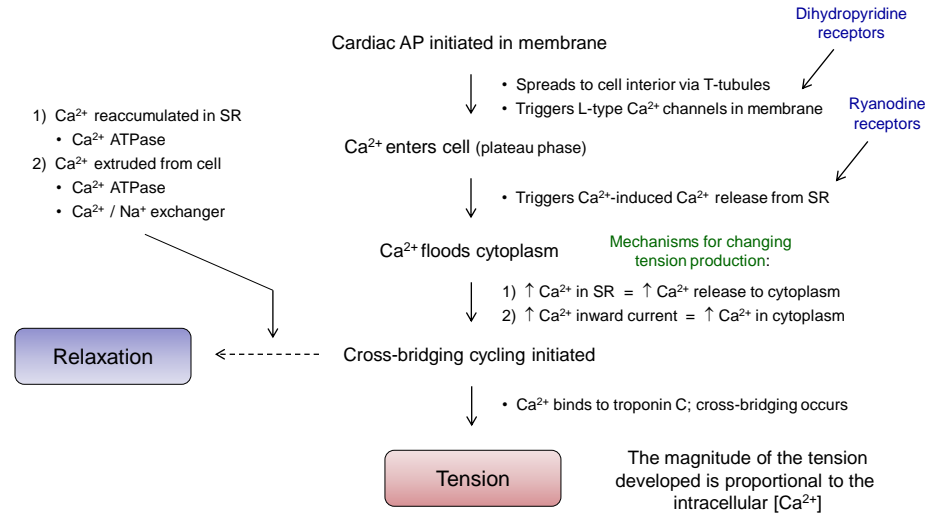
The basic contractile machinery between cardiac and smooth muscle is similar



Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figures 1.21 / 1.22

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Excitation-contraction coupling translates the action potential into the production of tension



Cardiac Muscle Contraction

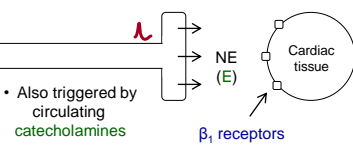
Inotropism:

Intrinsic ability of myocardial cells to develop force at a given length

The autonomic nervous system can directly affect heart contractility; these effects are called **inotropic effects**

Positive inotropic effects:
(increase contractility)

- Under sympathetic control

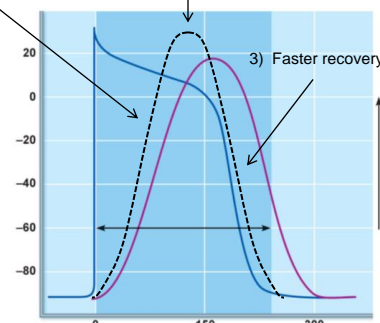


Mechanisms of action:

- 1) Phosphorylation of Ca^{2+} channels in sarcolemma
 - $\uparrow Ca^{2+}$ enters during plateau / released from SR
- 2) Phosphorylation of **phospholamban** (regulates Ca^{2+} ATPase activity)
 - \uparrow uptake / storage of Ca^{2+} in SR
 - Faster relaxation time
 - Increased peak tension during subsequent 'beats'

1) Faster tension development

2) \uparrow peak tension



- Shorter twitch time allows for more time for ventricle to fill
- Increased tension generation equals stronger contraction

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

The autonomic nervous system can directly affect heart contractility; these effects are called **inotropic effects**

Positive inotropic effects:
(increase contractility)

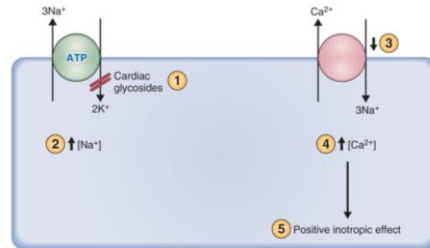


Digitalis purpurea

Digoxin
Digitoxin
Ouabain

Cardiac glycosides are a class of drugs that act as **positive inotropic agents**

Used extensively for the treatment of congestive heart failure



- 1) Cardiac glycosides inhibit $\text{Na}^+\text{-K}^+$ ATPase
- 2) Intracellular $[\text{Na}^+]$ increases
- 3) Change in Na^+ gradient slows down $\text{Ca}^{2+}\text{-Na}^+$ exchanger
- 4) Intracellular $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ increases
- 5) $\uparrow [\text{Ca}^{2+}] = \uparrow$ tension development

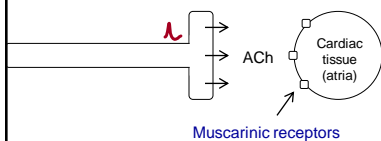
Cardiac Muscle Contraction

The autonomic nervous system can directly affect heart contractility; these effects are called **inotropic effects**

Only affect myocardium in atria

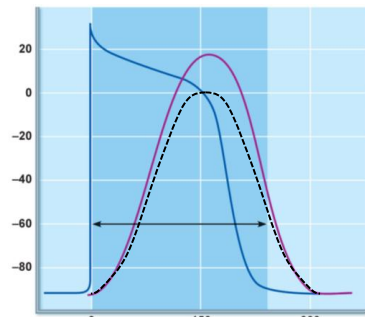
Negative inotropic effects:
(decrease contractility)

- Under parasympathetic control



- ACh decreases inward Ca^{2+} current during plateau
- ACh increases outward K^+ current (shorten plateau phase)

Both $\downarrow \text{Ca}^{2+}$ entering cell and thus the amount of Ca^{2+} available for tension development



Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Changes in heart rate also produce changes in cardiac contractility

Example:

Increase in heart rate = Increase in cardiac contractility

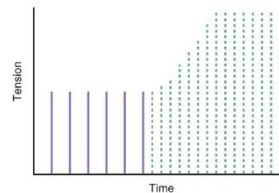
1) ↑ heart rate = ↑ APs per unit time = ↑ total amount of Ca^{2+} entering cell per unit time

AND

2) ↑ Ca^{2+} entering cell per unit time = ↑ accumulation of Ca^{2+} in SR for future release

Positive staircase effect

As heart rate increases, the tension developed on each beat increases stepwise to a maximal value

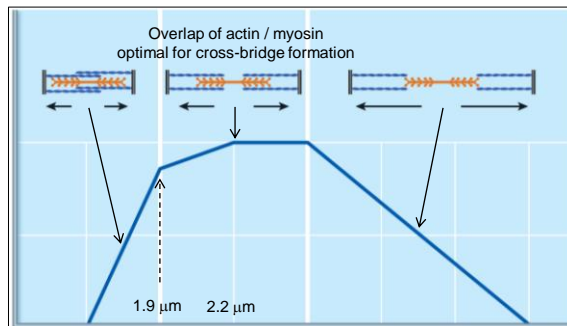


* Sympathetic input will enhance response

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

The maximum tension that can be developed by a myocardial cell depends on its resting length (similar to skeletal muscle)

Sarcomere length of $\sim 2.2 \mu\text{m}$ = L_{max} for cardiac muscle



Additional Length-dependent Mechanisms:

- 1) Increasing muscle length increases Ca^{2+} -sensitivity of troponin C
- 2) Increasing muscle length increases Ca^{2+} release from SR

Systole = Contraction of heart

Diastole = Relaxation of heart

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Ventricular function is described by several parameters:

- 1) **Cardiac Output:** Total volume of blood ejected by each ventricle per unit time (usually one minute)

$$\text{Cardiac output (ml / min)} = \text{Heart rate (beats / min)} \times \text{Stroke volume (ml / beat)}$$

- 2) **Stroke Volume:** Volume of blood ejected by each ventricle per heart beat

$$\text{Stroke volume (ml)} = \text{End diastolic volume (ml)} - \text{End systolic volume (ml)}$$

- 3) **Ejection Fraction:** Fraction of the end diastolic volume ejected in each stroke volume

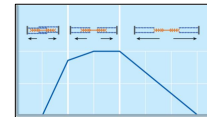
$$\text{Ejection fraction} = \frac{\text{Stroke volume (ml)}}{\text{End diastolic volume (ml)}}$$



Heart rate = 75 beats / min
 End diastolic volume = 140 ml
 End systolic volume = 70 ml

Calculate:

Stroke volume: 70 ml
 Ejection fraction: 0.50
 Cardiac output: 5250 ml / min

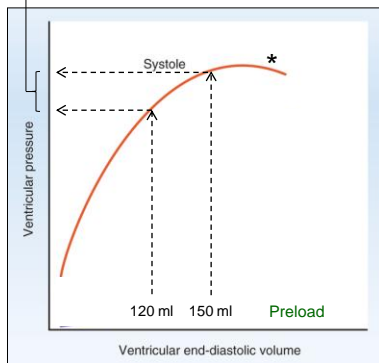


Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Frank-Starling Law of the Heart:

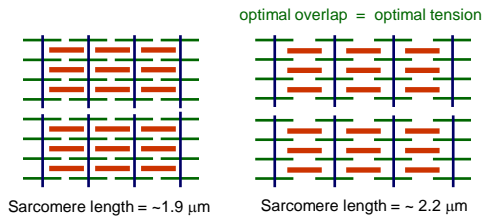
The volume of blood ejected by the ventricle depends on the volume present in the ventricle at the end of diastole

Stronger tension generated



(end diastolic cardiac fiber length)

The more blood that collects in the ventricle, the more the cardiac cells are stretched

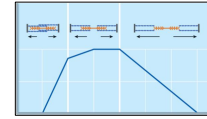


Preload:

The resting length from which cardiac muscle contracts

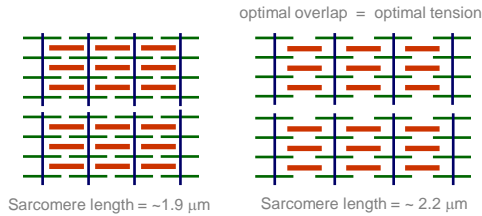
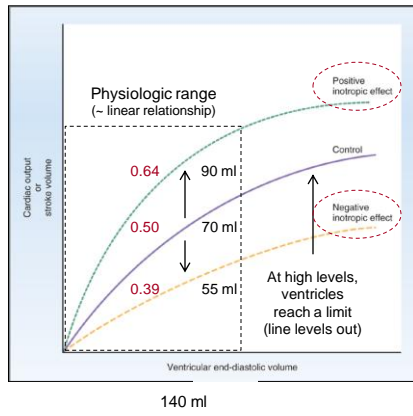
* Cardiac muscle normally 'held' on the ascending limb of the length-tension curve; much 'stiffer' than skeletal muscle

Cardiac Muscle Contraction



Frank-Starling Law of the Heart:

The volume of blood ejected by the ventricle depends on the volume present in the ventricle at the end of diastole



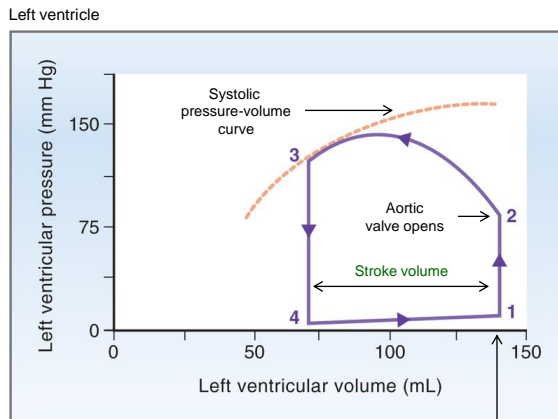
This relationship ensures that the volume the heart ejects in systole equals the volume it receives in venous return

- Positive inotropic effect = ↑ ejection fraction
- Negative inotropic effect = ↓ ejection fraction

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.22

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

A **ventricular pressure-volume loop** allows for the function of a ventricle to be observed for a single heart beat



- Isovolumetric contraction (1 → 2)
 - Ventricle activates (systole)
 - no change in blood volume = ↑ pressure
 - Aortic / mitral valves closed
 - $P_{aorta} > P_{ventricle} > P_{atrium}$
- Ventricular ejection (2 → 3)
 - Aortic valve opens
 - $P_{ventricle} > P_{aorta}$
 - Blood rapidly ejected (↓ volume)

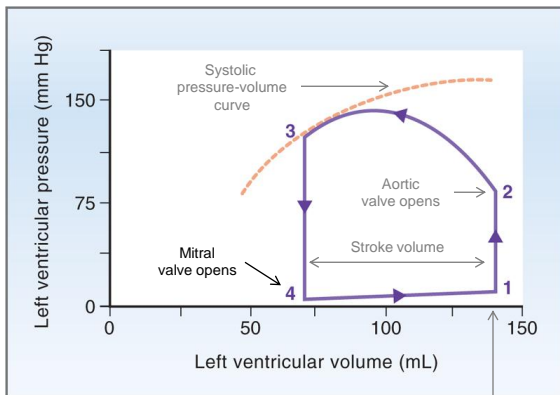
- Atrium 'tops off' blood in ventricle
- Ventricle relaxed (late diastole)

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.23

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

A **ventricular pressure-volume loop** allows for the function of a ventricle to be observed for a single heart beat

Left ventricle



- Atrium 'tops off' blood in ventricle
- Ventricle relaxed (diastole)

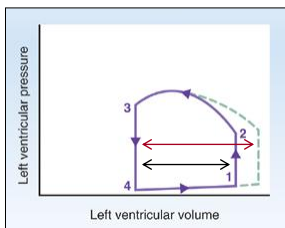
Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.23

- Isovolumetric relaxation (3 → 4)
- Ventricle relaxes (early diastole)
- \uparrow space + no change in blood = \downarrow pressure volume
- Aortic / mitral valves closed
- $P_{aorta} > P_{ventricle} > P_{atrium}$
- Ventricular filling (4 → 1)
- Mitral valve opens
- $P_{atrium} > P_{ventricle}$
- Ventricle refills
- Slight pressure increase due to passive filling of compliant ventricle

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

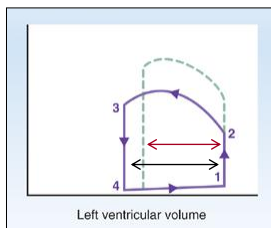
A **ventricular pressure-volume loop** allows for the function of a ventricle to be observed for a single heart beat

Increased preload



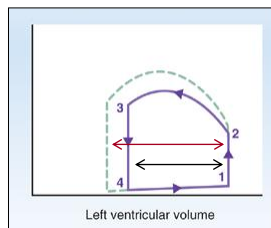
- Increased end diastolic volume
- Increased stroke volume (Frank-Starling Law)

Increased afterload



- Afterload:**
Pressure in the vessel leaving the heart (e.g., aorta) that must be overcome to eject blood
- Increased internal pressure
 - Decreased stroke volume

Increased contractility



- Increased tension / pressure
- Decreased end systolic volume
- Increased stroke volume

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.24

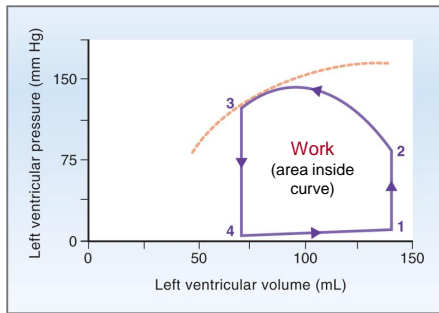
Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Force = aortic pressure
Distance = stroke volume

The **stroke work** is defined as the work the heart performs on each beat

Work = force x distance

Left ventricle

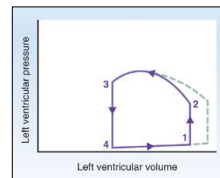


Cardiac minute work:

Work performed by the heart during a unit time (e.g., minute)

Force = aortic pressure (pressure work)
Distance = cardiac output (volume work)

Increases in cardiac output or increases in aortic pressure will increase work of the heart



(e.g., preload)

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figures 4.23 / 4.24

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Aortic stenosis results in greatly increased O₂ consumption, even though cardiac output reduced



The myocardial O₂ consumption rate correlates directly with the cardiac minute work

↑ cardiac minute work = ↑ O₂ consumption

HOWEVER

(aortic pressure)

The largest percentage of O₂ consumption is for **pressure work**

Mean aortic pressure = 100 mm Hg
Mean pulmonary pressure = 15 mm Hg

THUS

Law of Laplace:

In a sphere (e.g., heart), pressure correlates directly with tension and wall thickness and correlates inversely with radius

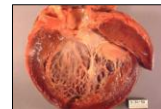
- P = Pressure
- H = Thickness (height)
- T = Tension
- R = Radius

$$P = \frac{2HT}{r}$$

Left ventricle thicker than right ventricle



What are the ramifications if a person exhibits systemic hypertension?



Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Recall:

Cardiac output equals the total volume of blood ejected by a ventricle per unit time

The cardiac output can also be measured using the **Fick principle**
(conservation of mass)

All measurable qualities



In the steady state, the rate of O₂ consumed by the body must equal the amount of O₂ leaving the lungs (pulmonary veins) minus the amount of O₂ returning to the lungs (pulmonary artery)

$$O_2 \text{ consumption} = \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{equal}}}{CO_{\text{left ventricle}}} \times [O_2]_{\text{pulmonary vein}} - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{equal}}}{CO_{\text{right ventricle}}} \times [O_2]_{\text{pulmonary artery}}$$

Solve for cardiac output:

$$\text{Cardiac Output} = \frac{O_2 \text{ consumption}}{[O_2]_{\text{pulmonary vein}} - [O_2]_{\text{pulmonary artery}}}$$

Fick principle also applicable to measuring blood flow to individual organs



A man has a resting O₂ consumption of 250 mL O₂ / min, a femoral arterial O₂ content of 0.20 mL O₂ / mL blood, and a pulmonary arterial O₂ content of 0.15 mL O₂ / mL blood.

What is his cardiac output?

$$\text{Cardiac Output} = \frac{O_2 \text{ consumption}}{[O_2]_{\text{pulmonary vein}} - [O_2]_{\text{pulmonary artery}}}$$

$$\text{Cardiac Output} = \frac{250 \text{ mL O}_2 / \text{min}}{0.20 \text{ mL O}_2 / \text{mL blood} - 0.15 \text{ mL O}_2 / \text{mL blood}}$$

$$\text{Cardiac Output} = 5000 \text{ mL / min}$$

Mechanical / Electrical Overview:

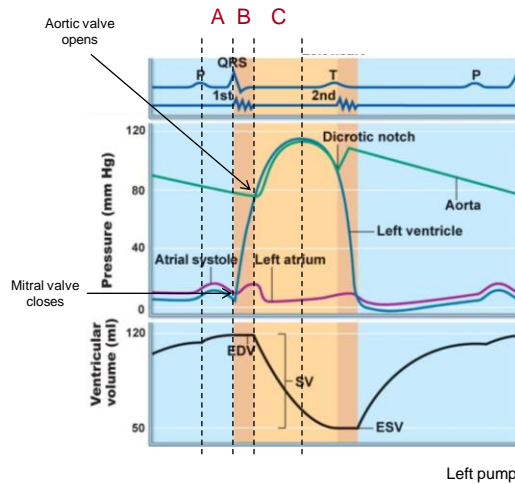
Cardiac Cycle: Mechanical and electrical events during single heart beat

Phases of the cardiac cycle:

- Atrial Systole: (A)**
- Preceded by P wave on ECG
 - Increased tension in left atrium
 - Ventricular volume / pressure increases
- Ventricle 'topped off' (20%)

- Isovolumetric Ventricular Contraction: (B)**
- Begins during QRS wave on ECG
 - Ventricular pressure increases (systole)
 - Mitral valve closes (1st heart sound – 'Lub')
 - NO VOLUME CHANGE

- Rapid Ventricular Ejection: (C)**
- Aortic valve opens ($P_{ventricle} > P_{aorta}$)
 - Majority of stroke volume ejected
 - Aorta pressure increases
 - Atrial filling begins



Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.20

Mechanical / Electrical Overview:

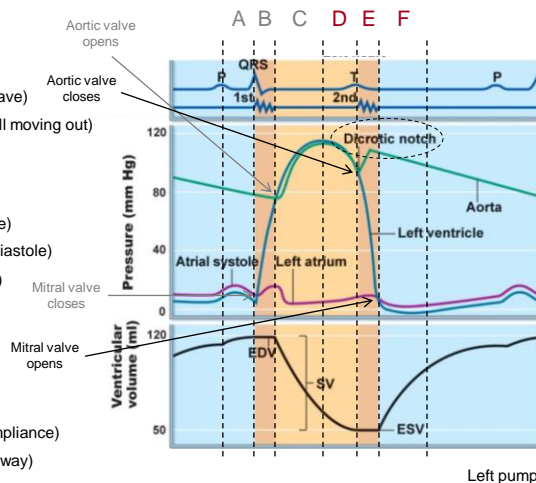
Cardiac Cycle: Mechanical and electrical events during single heart beat

Phases of the cardiac cycle:

- Reduced Ventricular Ejection: (D)**
- Ventricles begin to repolarize (start of T wave)
 - Ventricular / atrial pressure falls (blood still moving out)
 - Atrium continues to fill (pressure rising)

- Isovolumic Ventricular Relaxation: (E)**
- Ventricles fully repolarize (T wave complete)
 - Left ventricular pressure drops rapidly (diastole)
 - Aortic valve closes (2nd heart sound – 'Dub')
 - NO VOLUME CHANGE

- Rapid Ventricular Filling: (F)**
- Mitral valve opens ($P_{atrium} > P_{ventricle}$)
 - Ventricular volume increases rapidly
 - Little change in ventricular pressure (compliance)
 - Aortic pressure decreases (blood carried away)



Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.20

Mechanical / Electrical Overview:

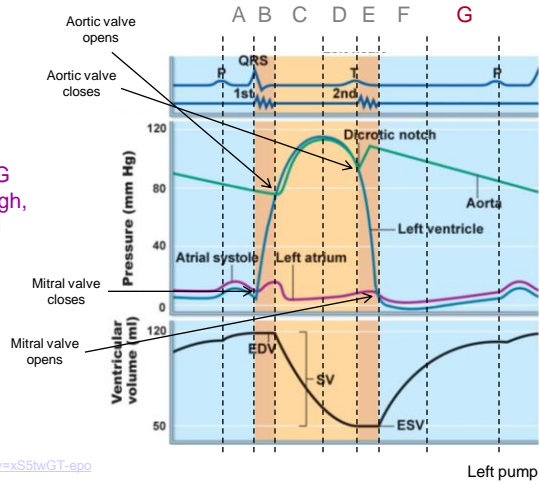
Cardiac Cycle: Mechanical and electrical events during single heart beat

Phases of the cardiac cycle:

Reduced Ventricular filling: (G)

- Longest phase of cardiac cycle
- Final portion of ventricular filling

Increase in heart rate reduces G phase interval; if heart rate too high, ventricular filling compromised



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&NR=1&v=xS5twGT-epo>

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.20