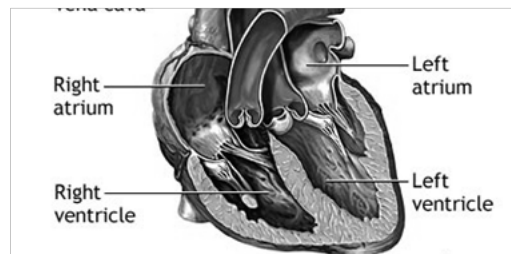
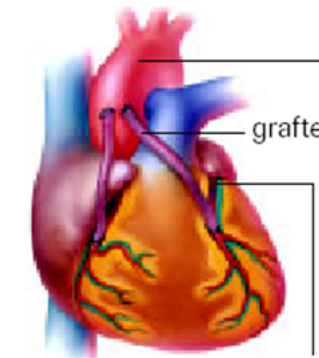


### **Structure of the Heart**

- The heart is a small, muscular organ about the size of a fist
- Located between the lungs, directly behind the sternum (breast bone)
- Surrounded by a tough, liquid filled sac called the **pericardium**.  
(peri - around; cardium - heart)
- The major portion of the heart consists of muscle called **myocardium**  
(myo - muscle; cardium - heart)
- Inner lining of the heart called the **endocardium**  
(endo - inside).
- The heart is separated into two separate pumps by a muscular wall called the **septum**



Location of Heart in Body

[http://www.bostonscientific.com/templatedata/imports/HTML/CRM/heart/interact\\_1.html](http://www.bostonscientific.com/templatedata/imports/HTML/CRM/heart/interact_1.html)



The heart has 4 separate chambers

- Right Atrium - receives deoxygenated blood from the body and head and pumps it into the right ventricle
- Right Ventricle - pumps deoxygenated blood to the lungs
- Left Atrium - receives oxygenated blood from the lungs and pumps it to the left ventricle
- Left Ventricle - pumps oxygenated blood to the body

### Parts of the Heart:

Superior vena cava: carries deoxygenated blood from the head to the right atrium

Inferior vena cava: carries deoxygenated blood from the body to the right atrium

Right Atrium: pumps blood to the right ventricle (thin wall - WHY?)

Right Atrioventricular (AV) Valve separates the right atrium and ventricle

- i. Prevents blood from flowing back into the atrium
- ii. Also referred to as the tricuspid valve.

Right Ventricle: pumps blood to the lungs (thick muscle wall - WHY?)

Pulmonary artery: carries blood from the right ventricle to the lungs

Semilunar valves: prevent blood from flowing back into the ventricles from the arteries

Septum: thick muscle that separates the left and right sides of the heart

Pulmonary veins: carry oxygenated blood from the lungs to the left atrium

Left atrium: receive blood from the lungs and pumps it to the left ventricle (thin muscle wall - WHY?)

Left Atrioventricular (AV) valve Prevents blood from flowing back into the atrium

- i. Also referred to as the bicuspid valve

Left ventricle: receives blood from the left atrium and pumps it to the body through the aorta (thick muscle wall)

Aorta: carries oxygenated blood from the left ventricle to the body

- i. branches off into smaller arteries that carry blood to different places in the body

Chordae Tendinae: connective tissue that supports the AV valves

Coronary arteries: supply the cardiac (heart) muscle with oxygen and nutrients

[http://www.sumanasinc.com/webcontent/animations/content/human\\_heart.html](http://www.sumanasinc.com/webcontent/animations/content/human_heart.html)

