

The Cardiorespiratory System

by Dr Grant Ralston

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Objectives

- Fun facts about the heart
- Describe anatomy of the heart
- Describe oxygen delivery via blood
- Understand heart rate, blood pressure responses
- Understand adaptations to training

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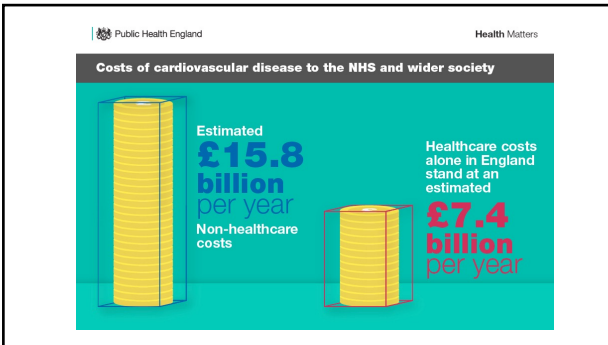
Public Health England Health Matters

Scale of the problem

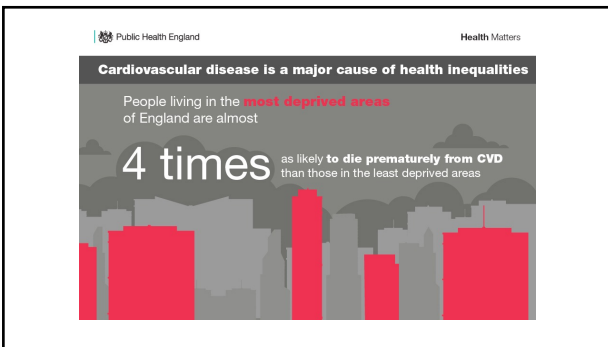
Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death worldwide

In England, CVD causes **1 in 4 deaths** which equates to **1 death every 4 minutes**

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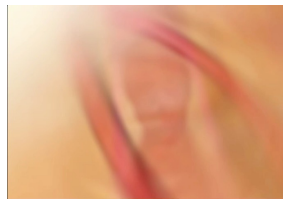


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Impact to the CV System



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Would you drive [train] the engines the same way?

John's heart

Jane's heart

Would you drive [train] the engines as fast?



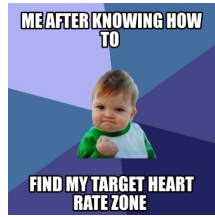
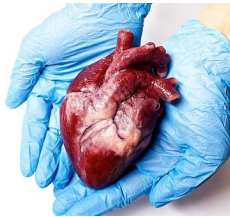
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Fun Facts



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Fun Facts

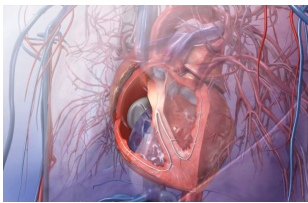


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Name the footballer



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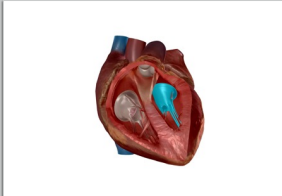
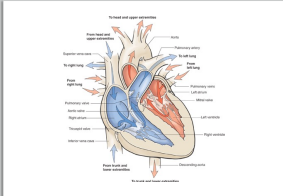
Myocardium

- Heart muscle
- Similar to striated skeletal muscle
- Fibers are multinucleated and interconnected end to end by intercalated disks

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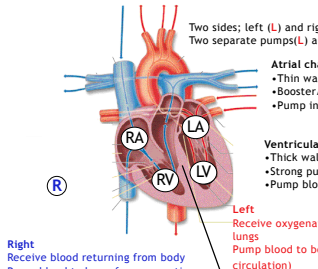
Structure

- Three separate areas:
 - Atrial
 - Ventricular
 - Conductive



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Heart Macro-anatomy



Two sides; left (L) and right (R)
Two separate pumps (L) and right (R)

Atrial chambers
• Thin walled
• Booster/primer pumps
• Pump into ventricles

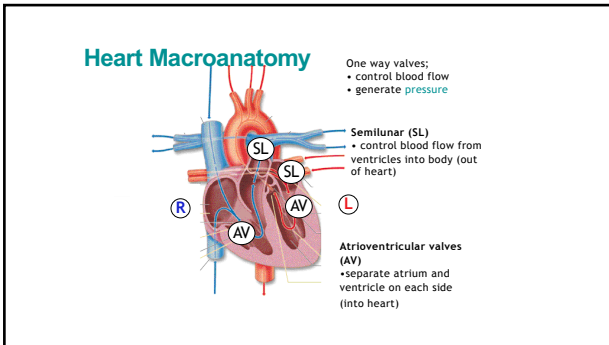
Ventricular chambers
• Thick walled
• Strong pump
• Pump blood to tissues

Right
Receive blood returning from body
Pump blood to lungs for oxygenation

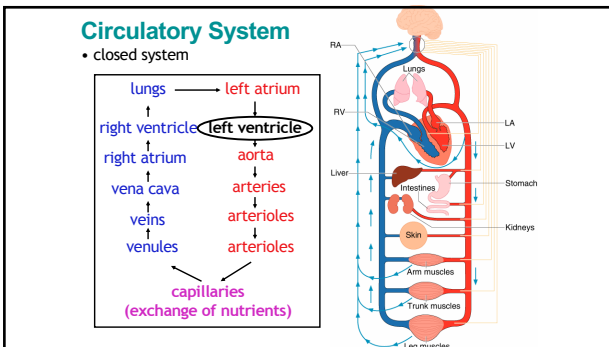
Left
Receive oxygenated blood from lungs
Pump blood to body (systemic circulation)

Septum

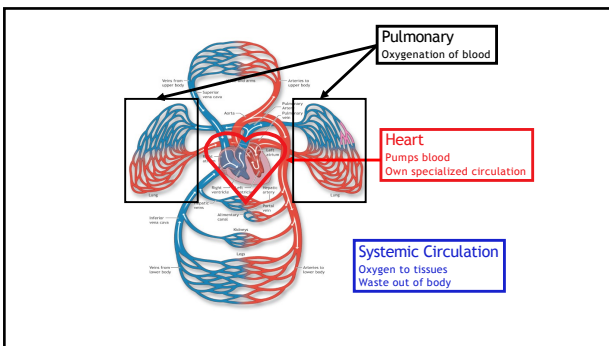
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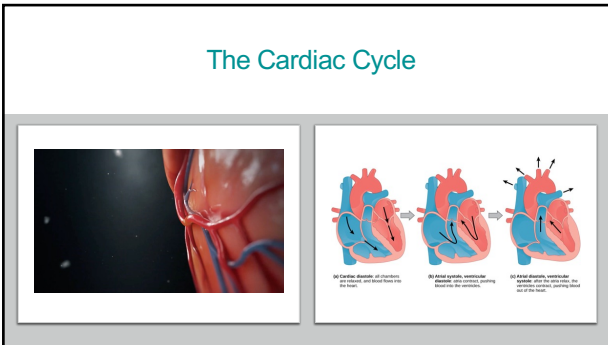
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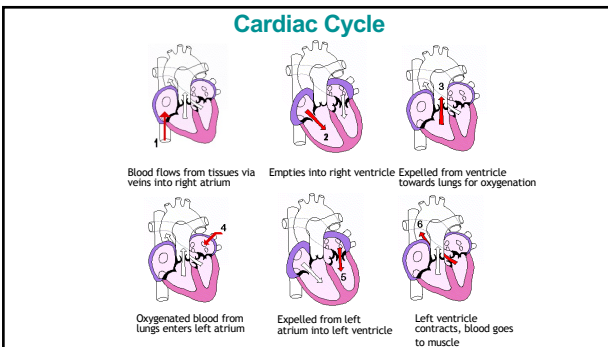
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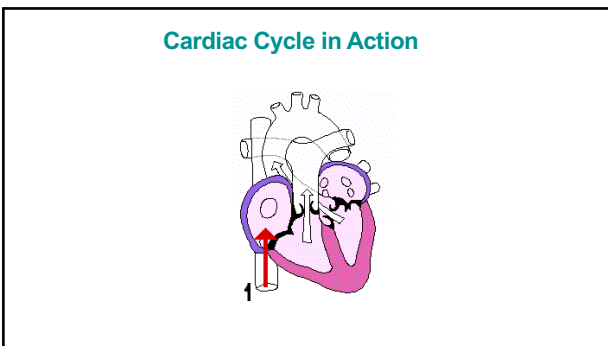
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The Cardiac Cycle

Systole

- contraction phase
- blood expelled from chambers

Diastole

- relaxation phase
- chambers filled with blood

Phase	Rest (Heart rate = 75 beats/min)	Heavy exercise (Heart rate = 180 beats/min)
Systole	0.3 seconds	0.2 seconds
Diastole	0.5 seconds	0.13 seconds

N.B. !
When heart rate increases diastole shortens
Remember for later

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Heart Rate and Conduction

SA node, Atrial septum, AV node, Right bundle branch, Left bundle branch, Purkinje fibers

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Cardiac Output

- Product of heart rate and stroke volume; the amount of blood pumped by the heart in 1 minute
- Average adult male (regardless of training status): total volume of blood pumped out of the left ventricle per minute at rest is approximately 5 litres
- Endurance athlete: heart rate is usually much lower at rest due to greater vagal tone and reduced sympathetic drive

Cardiac Output = SV × HR

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What About Blood Flow

The diagram illustrates the flow of blood in the lower leg. On the left, a photograph shows a person's legs with prominent varicose veins. To the right, a schematic diagram shows the arterial system (red) and venous system (blue) with arrows indicating the direction of flow. Labels include: Vein, Venule, Capillary, Arteriole, and Artery.

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Systemic Circulation

- Left ventricle
 - Aorta
 - Arteries
 - Arterioles (small arterial branches)
 - Metarterioles (smaller branches)
 - Capillaries

Organ	Rest (%)	Strenuous endurance exercise (%)
Brain	~15	~15
Heart	~5	~5
Liver	~15	~15
Other	~10	~10
Muscle	~10	~50

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Systemic Circulation (cont.)

- Capillaries
- Venous circulation
 - Venules (small veins)
 - Superior vena cava (venous blood returning from areas above the heart) and the
 - Inferior vena cava (venous blood returning from areas below the heart)
 - Right atrium

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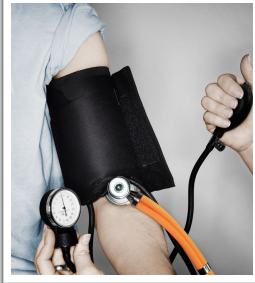
Blood Pressure

Systolic Blood

- Approximately 120 mm Hg at rest
- Represents the strain against the arterial walls during ventricular contraction (systole)

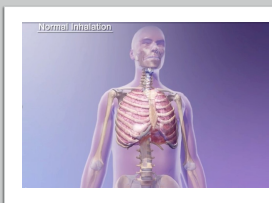
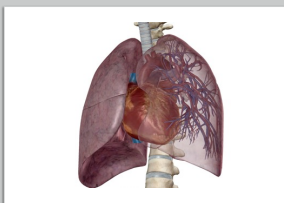
Diastolic Blood

- 80 mm Hg at rest
- An indication of the peripheral resistance, or ease at which blood flows into the capillaries
- As blood flows through the systemic circulation pressure will continue to fall and reach approximately 0 mm Hg as it reaches the right atrium



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Respiratory and Circulatory System



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Alveoli and Gaseous Exchange

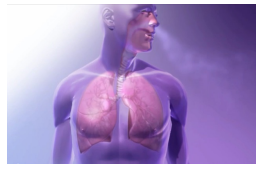
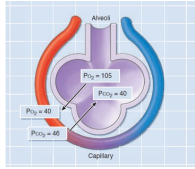
- Oxygen in the air is exchanged for waste carbon dioxide from the bloodstream.
- This process of external respiration takes place in hundreds of millions of alveoli [air sacs].
- Inhaled oxygen diffuses from the alveoli into the pulmonary capillaries into the bloodstream.
- Carbon dioxide from oxygen depleted blood diffuses from the capillaries into the alveoli



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Dalton's Law [Law of Partial Pressure]

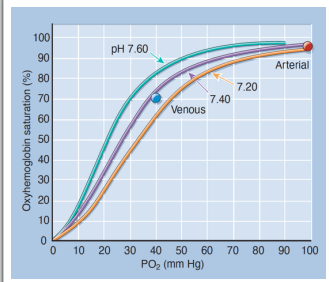
- Gas exchange occurs in the lungs as oxygen diffuses from the alveoli into the blood stream and carbon dioxide diffuse into the alveoli.
- Oxygen diffuse from the alveolus into the pulmonary capillary. Carbon dioxide diffuses out of the capillary and into the alveoli



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Transporting O₂ and CO₂

- Oxygen: transported in the blood with hemoglobin or plasma
- Carbon dioxide: transport occurs in the form of bicarbonate ion or plasma
- Bohr effect: as the pH of the blood decreases, the affinity of hemoglobin to oxygen decreases and oxygen is released



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Blood

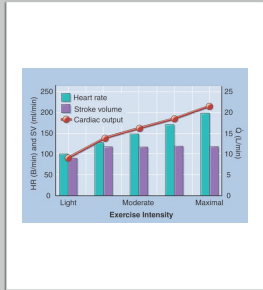
- Made up of cells and plasma
- More than 99% of blood → red blood cells
- Remainder of cells → white blood cells
- Plasma: part of the body's extracellular fluid
- Hematocrit: percent of the blood that is cells
- Hematocrit in males: 42; in females: 38



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Cardiovascular Response to Exercise

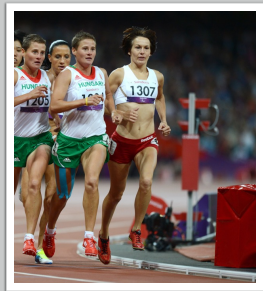
- Increases in cardiac output during exercise result from changes in stroke volume and heart rate
- Heart rate elevation during exercise is primarily controlled by parasympathetic stimulation
- As intensity of exercise increases, heart rate continues to increase until it reaches a plateau. This is the point in which the individual has reached his/her maximal level



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Stroke Volume during Exercise

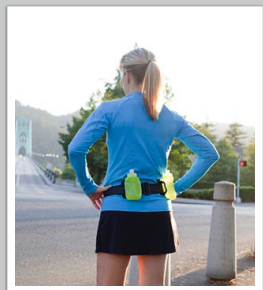
- Increases in stroke volume are accomplished early during exercise primarily through an increase in left ventricular end-diastolic volume
- Frank-Starling mechanism: with a greater volume of blood returning to the heart, the ventricles stretch more than normal and respond with a more forceful contraction



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Cardiac Drift

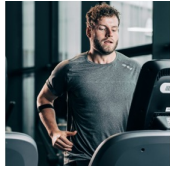
- As exercise is prolonged or when exercise is performed in a hot environment, a gradual increase in heart rate and a decrease in stroke volume may occur even when exercise intensity is maintained



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A-Vo₂ Difference

- Oxygen extraction from the arterial blood during exercise is increased
- The body's ability to extract oxygen from the blood and total blood volume available to the muscles is critical in determining the individual's aerobic capacity

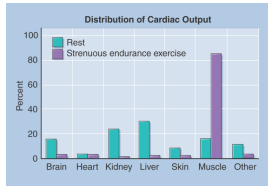


VO_{2max} = maximal CO x maximal a - VO₂ difference

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Distribution of Cardiac Output

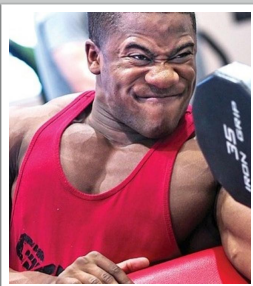
- During exercise, most of the circulating blood is shunted to the active muscles.
- The extent of this shunting depends on environmental conditions and other factors, such as type of exercise and fatigue.
- The shunting of blood is generally accomplished by diverting blood flow from organs or areas of the body that can take a reduction in blood flow (not the heart or brain).



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Blood Pressure during Exercise


- During exercise, systolic blood pressure increases linearly with changes in exercise intensity until max HR is reached
- Diastolic blood pressure remains about the same
- During upper body exercise only, both systolic and diastolic blood pressure are higher than when exercise is performed with only the legs



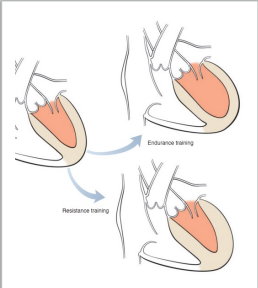
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Cardiac Adaptations to Training

- Increases in V_{O2max}
- Increases in cardiac output resulting from increased stroke volume
- Decrease in resting heart rate and a decrease in heart rate any given submaximal V_{O2}
- No change in resting blood pressure for normotensive individuals



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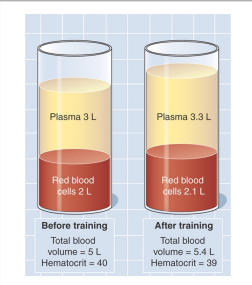
Cardiac Morphology

- An athlete's heart is quite large in comparison to that of a recreationally trained or sedentary individual
- During prolonged training, the heart adapts to match the workload placed on the left ventricle to maintain a constant relationship between systolic cavity pressure and the ratios of wall thickness to ventricular radius

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Blood Volume Adaptations to Training

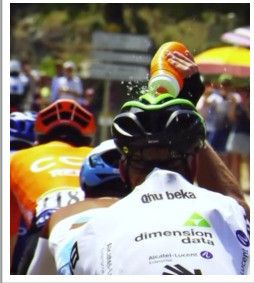
- Endurance training appears to be a stimulus for causing hypervolemia (increase in blood volume)
- Increases in blood volume are due to both plasma volume expansion and an increase in the number of red blood cells
- This causes a reduction in hematocrit



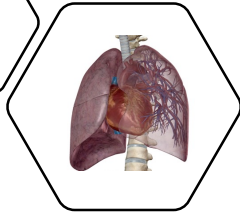
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Cardiorespiratory Function and the Environment

- Effects of heat: cardiovascular function can be compromised during exercise in heat by reduction in stroke volume
- Effects of altitude: changes in partial pressure of oxygen as the result of ascending altitude will impair gas exchange in the lungs and tissues; hyperventilation can occur



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The Cardiorespiratory System

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