The Heart and Pericardium

HEART - SURFACES & SEPTUM

- Midline in middle mediastinum
- Valved muscular pump
- Size of a fist - 300g
- Cone shaped
- Surfaces: see figure but note that base is the posterior surface (left atrium)

Base (posterior)
- Left atrium

Left surface
- Left ventricle

Apex (anterior inferior tip)

Anterior surface
- 2/3rds right ventricle
- 1/3rd left ventricle

Inferior surface
- 1/3rd right ventricle
- 2/3rds left ventricle

INTERVENTRICAL SEPTUM

Right
- 3-5mm

Left
- 10mm

- Bulges to right
- Lies vertically
- In coronal plane
- Attaches to AV rings

Superior membraneous part (from AV cushions)

Inferior muscular part (from ventricular wall)
As the visceral pericardium reaches up posteriorly on the left atrium it reflects off the pulmonary veins to become the parietal pericardium. This is the oblique sinus.
HEART - FIBROUS SKELETON

- Remnant of atrioventricular cushions
- Divides atria from ventricles
- Supports valves
- Electrically separates atria from ventricles
- Is origin of membranous interventricular septum

![Diagram of heart fibrous skeleton]
HEART - PERICARDIUM

PERICARDIUM
- Outer layer - Fibrous
  Blends with adventitia of aorta, pulmonary trunk, superior vena cava (not inferior vena cava), central tendon of diaphragm
- Inner layer - Serous
  - Visceral
  - Parietal
- Blood: pericardiocophrenic & internal thoracic
- Nerve: Phrenic to fibrous and parietal serous layers
  - Sympathetic for pain & muscles & vessels of heart
  - Nil to visceral layer

SINUSES OF PERICARDIUM
Transverse
Lies between the pulmonary artery and aorta anteriorly and pulmonary veins and superior vena cava posteriorly
Oblique
This is a pouch of pericardium between the pulmonary veins at the base of the heart where the visceral pericardium is reflected off the vessels to become the parietal pericardium
Opening of the coronary sinus (*)
Between the opening of the inferior vena cava & the atrioventricular orifice.
Protected by a small valve which prevents regurgitation during atrial contraction.
Between this orifice and the septal cusp of the tricuspid valve lies the atrioventricular node (A-V node).

**FETAL SHUNTING**
In the fetus oxygenated blood passing up the IVC is diverted by the "valve of the IVC" (V) into the foramen ovale & hence to the left atrium. Blood returning via the SVC passes down into the right ventricle
HEART - RIGHT VENTRICLE

Superior vena cava

Pulmonary trunk

Aorta

Pulmonary valve
(2 anterior, 1 posterior cusps - PAPA)

Conus arteriosus
(infundibulum)

Interventricular septum bulges to right

Ventricular wall
(3-5mm thick)

Trabeculae carneae

Septomarginal trabecula
(moderator band - branch from right bundle)

Right atrium

Anterior cusp

Septal cusp

Posterior cusp (smallest, lies inferiorly, 3 scallops)

Papillary muscle holding cusps with chordae tendineae

TRICUSPID VALVE
Anterior, septal & posterior
Attached to fibrous AV ring
Admits tips of 3 fingers
HEART - LEFT VENTRICLE

- Anterior cusp of mitral valve attached to anterior papillary muscle via chordae tendineae
- Posterior cusp of mitral valve attached to posterior papillary muscle via chordae tendineae

A
Anterior cusp & sinus
(opening of right coronary artery)

RP
Right posterior cusp & sinus
(orifice of left coronary artery)

LP
Left posterior cusp & sinus
(orifice of left coronary artery)

MITRAL VALVE
- Anterior cusp is larger, septal & thicker
- Posterior is smaller & has three scallops
- Admits the tips of 2 fingers
- Attached to fibrous AV ring
Opening of the coronary sinus (*)
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Protected by a small valve which prevents regurgitation during atrial contraction.
Between this orifice and the septal cusp of the tricuspid valve lies the atrioventricular node (A-V node).

**FETAL SHUNTING**
In the fetus oxygenated blood passing up the IVC is diverted by the "valve of the IVC" (V) into the foramen ovale & hence to the left atrium. Blood returning via the SVC passes down into the right ventricle.
The ostia of these arteries are above the attachment of the base of the relevant cusp. The right from the anterior sinus & the left from the left posterior sinus.

The right artery passes anteriorly between the right atrial appendage & the pulmonary trunk into the right anterior atroventricular (AV) groove & then the right posterior AV groove where it anastomoses with the circumflex branch of the left coronary artery. In 90% of people it gives the posterior interventricular artery which anastomoses with the termination of the anterior interventricular artery (left coronary) in this groove. The AV node is supplied by the right coronary artery in 90% of people.

The left coronary artery passes anteriorly between the left atrial appendage & the pulmonary trunk into the left anterior AV groove. It divides into anterior interventricular & circumflex arteries. The latter artery continues first in the anterior & then in the posterior AV grooves. It anastomoses with the terminal branches of the right coronary artery. In 10% of people it gives the posterior interventricular artery (left dominance) & also supplies the AV node. The anterior interventricular (anterior descending) passes down & around the apex of the heart to anastomose with the terminal branches of the posterior interventricular artery.
The veins of the heart are more variable than the arteries. Drainage of the left & right ventricles commences with the great cardiac vein in the anterior interventricular groove. It runs left in the anterior atrioventricular (AV) groove where it collects the left marginal vein and then, in the posterior AV groove, it is joined by the oblique vein of the left atrium, the posterior ventricular vein and finally the middle cardiac vein which lies in the posterior interventricular groove & drains the left & right ventricles posteriorly. The confluence of these veins is the 3cm long coronary sinus, lying in the posterior AV groove. Just before the coronary sinus enters the right atrium to the left of the entry of the inferior vena cava, it is usually joined by the small cardiac vein which drains the right atrium & right ventricle. Sometimes the small cardiac vein drains directly into the right atrium. Two anterior cardiac veins drain the anterior aspect of the right ventricle & right atrium before crossing the right coronary artery to enter the right atrium. Some 20-30% of all drainage is in the venae cordis minimae (Thebesian veins) which drain directly into the chambers of the heart, mostly on the right side.