Fundamentals of Anatomy & Physiology Eleventh Edition



Chapter 20 The Heart

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Learning outcomes

20-1 Describe the anatomy of the heart, including vascular supply and pericardium structure, and trace the flow of blood through the heart, identifying the major blood vessels, chambers, and heart values.

20-2 Explain the events of an action potential in cardiac muscle, indicate the importance of calcium ions to the contractile process, describe the conducting system of the heart, and identify the electrical events associated with a normal electrocardiogram.

Learning outcomes

20-3 Explain the events of the cardiac cycle, including atrial and ventricular systole and diastole, and relate the heart sounds to specific events in the cycle.

20-4 Define cardiac output, describe the factors that influence heart rate and stroke volume, and explain how adjustments in stroke volume and cardiac output are coordinated at different levels of physical activity.

An Introduction to the Heart

Cardiovascular system

- Heart
- Blood
- Blood vessels
- The heart
 - Beats approximately 100,000 times each day
 - Pumping about 8000 liters of blood per day

Pulmonary circuit

 Carries blood to and from gas exchange surfaces of lungs

Systemic circuit

- Carries blood to and from the rest of the body
- Each circuit begins and ends at the heart
 - Blood travels through these circuits in sequence



- Types of blood vessels
 - Arteries
 - Carry blood away from heart
 - Veins
 - Return blood to heart
 - Capillaries (exchange vessels)
 - Interconnect smallest arteries and smallest veins
 - Exchange dissolved gases, nutrients, and wastes between blood and surrounding tissues

- Four chambers of the heart
 - Right atrium
 - Receives blood from systemic circuit
 - Right ventricle
 - Pumps blood into pulmonary circuit
 - Left atrium
 - Receives blood from pulmonary circuit
 - Left ventricle
 - Pumps blood into systemic circuit

- Heart
 - Great vessels connect at **base** (superior)
 - Pointed tip is **apex** (inferior)
 - Sits between two pleural cavities in mediastinum



a An anterior view of the chest, showing the position of the heart and major blood vessels relative to the ribs, lungs, and diaphragm.

Pericardium

- Surrounds heart
- Outer fibrous pericardium
- Inner serous pericardium
 - Outer parietal layer
 - Inner visceral layer (epicardium)
- Pericardial cavity
 - Between parietal and visceral layers
 - Contains pericardial fluid



b A superior view of the organs in the mediastinum; portions of the lungs have been removed to reveal blood vessels and airways. The heart is located in the anterior part of the mediastinum, immediately posterior to the sternum.



c The relationship between the heart and the pericardial cavity; compare with the fist-and-balloon example.

Pericarditis

- Caused by pathogens in pericardium
- Inflamed pericardial surfaces rub against each other
 - Producing distinctive scratching sound
- May cause cardiac tamponade
 - Restricted movement of the heart
 - Due to excess fluid in pericardial cavity

- Superficial anatomy of the heart
 - Two thin-walled atria
 - Each with an expandable outer auricle
 - Sulci (grooves)
 - Contain fat and blood vessels
 - Coronary sulcus
 - Marks border between atria and ventricles
 - Anterior interventricular sulcus and posterior interventricular sulcus

Mark boundary between left and right ventricles



a Heart position relative to the rib cage.

Figure 20–3b The Position and Superficial Anatomy of the Heart.



b Major anatomical features on the anterior surface.



c Anterior surface of the heart, cadaver dissection.



d Major anatomical features on the posterior surface. Coronary arteries (which supply the heart itself) are shown in red; coronary veins are shown in blue.

- Heart wall consists of three distinct layers
 - Visceral layer of serous pericardium (epicardium)
 - Covers surface of heart
 - Covered by parietal layer of serous pericardium
 - Myocardium
 - Cardiac muscle tissue
 - Endocardium
 - Covers inner surfaces of heart
 - Simple squamous epithelium and areolar tissue



a A diagrammatic section through the heart wall, showing the relative positions of the myocardium, pericardium, and endocardium. The proportions are not to scale; the thickness of the myocardial wall has been greatly reduced.



Atrial musculature forms bands that wrap around the atria in a figure-eight pattern

Ventricular musculature forms bands that spiral around the ventricles

b Cardiac muscle tissue forms concentric layers that wrap around the atria or spiral within the walls of the ventricles.

- Connective tissues of the heart
 - Physically support cardiac muscle fibers, blood vessels, and nerves of myocardium
 - Distribute forces of contraction
 - Add strength and prevent overexpansion of heart
 - Provide elasticity that helps return heart to original size and shape after contraction

Cardiac skeleton

- Four dense bands of tough elastic tissue
 - Encircle heart valves and bases of pulmonary trunk and aorta
 - Stabilize positions of heart valves and ventricular muscle cells
 - Electrically insulate ventricular cells from atrial cells

- Internal anatomy and organization
 - Chambers of heart are separated by muscular partitions (septa)
 - Interatrial septum
 - Separates atria
 - Interventricular septum
 - Separates ventricles
 - Much thicker than interatrial septum

Atrioventricular (AV) valves

- Tricuspid and mitral valves
- Folds of fibrous tissue that extend into openings between atria and ventricles
- Permit blood flow in one direction
 - From right atrium to right ventricle
 - From left atrium to left ventricle

Semilunar valves

- Pulmonary and aortic valves
- Prevent backflow of blood into ventricles

Right atrium receives blood from

- Superior vena cava
 - Carries blood from head, neck, upper limbs, and chest
- Inferior vena cava
 - Carries blood from trunk, viscera, and lower limbs

- Right atrium
 - Foramen ovale
 - Before birth, is an opening through interatrial septum
 - Connects the two atria of fetal heart
 - Closes at birth, eventually forming fossa ovalis

Pectinate muscles

- Prominent muscular ridges
- On anterior atrial wall and inner surface of auricle

- Blood flows from right atrium to right ventricle
 - Tricuspid valve (right atrioventricular valve)
 - Has three cusps
 - Prevents backflow of blood
 - Free edges of valve attach to chordae tendineae from papillary muscles of ventricle
 - Prevent valve from opening backward





arrows) through the atria, ventricles, and associated vessels.

Right ventricle

- Trabeculae carneae
 - Muscular ridges on internal surface (of both ventricles)
- Moderator band
 - Muscular ridge that delivers stimulus for contraction to papillary muscles



Papillary muscles and chordae tendineae support the mitral valve and tricuspid valve.



Conus arteriosus

- At superior end of right ventricle
- Ends at pulmonary valve
 - Three semilunar cusps
 - Leads to pulmonary trunk
 - Start of pulmonary circuit
 - Divides into left and right pulmonary arteries

Left atrium

- Receives blood from left and right pulmonary veins
- Blood passes to left ventricle through mitral valve (left atrioventricular valve or bicuspid valve)
 - Two cusps

Left ventricle

- Similar to right ventricle but does not have moderator band
- Blood leaves left ventricle through aortic valve into ascending aorta
- Aortic sinuses
 - Saclike expansions at base of ascending aorta
- Ascending aorta turns to become **aortic arch**
 - Becomes descending aorta




arrows) through the atria, ventricles, and associated vessels.

- Compared to left ventricle, the right ventricle
 - Holds and pumps the same amount of blood
 - Has thinner walls
 - Develops less pressure
 - Is more pouch-shaped than round

Figure 20–6a Structural Differences between the Left and Right Ventricles.



 A diagrammatic sectional view through the heart, showing the relative thicknesses of the two ventricular walls. Note the pouchlike shape of the right ventricle and the greater thickness of the left ventricular muscle.



- Heart valves
 - Prevent backflow of blood
- Atrioventricular (AV) valves
 - Between atria and ventricles
 - When ventricles contract,
 - Blood pressure closes valves
 - Papillary muscles contract and tense chordae tendineae
 - Prevents regurgitation (backflow) of blood into atria

- Semilunar valves
 - Pulmonary and aortic valves
 - Prevent backflow of blood into ventricles
 - No muscular braces
 - Valvular heart disease (VHD)
 - Deterioration of valve function
 - May develop after carditis (inflammation of heart)

May result from rheumatic fever (inflammatory autoimmune response to streptococcal bacteria)





Aortic valve open



and mitral valves are closed and the aortic and pulmonary valves are open. In the frontal section, note the attachment of the mitral valve to the chordae tendineae and papillary muscles.



When the ventricles are contracting, the tricuspid and mitral valves are closed and the aortic and pulmonary valves are open. In the frontal section, note the attachment of the mitral valve to the chordae tendineae and papillary muscles.

Coronary circulation

- Supplies blood to muscle tissue of heart
- Coronary arteries
 - Originate at aortic sinuses
 - Elevated blood pressure and elastic rebound of aorta maintain blood flow through coronary arteries

Right coronary artery

- Supplies blood to
 - Right atrium
 - Portions of both ventricles
 - Portions of electrical conducting system of heart
- Gives rise to
 - Marginal arteries
 - Posterior interventricular artery

Left coronary artery

- Supplies blood to
 - Left ventricle
 - Left atrium
 - Interventricular septum
- Gives rise to
 - Circumflex artery
 - Anterior interventricular artery

Arterial anastomoses

- Interconnect anterior and posterior interventricular arteries
- Maintain constant blood supply to cardiac muscle

- Cardiac veins
 - Great cardiac vein
 - Drains blood from region supplied by anterior interventricular artery
 - Returns blood to coronary sinus

- Opens into right atrium

- Posterior vein of left ventricle, middle cardiac vein, and small cardiac vein
 - Empty into great cardiac vein or coronary sinus
- Anterior cardiac veins empty into right atrium





Figure 20–8c The Coronary Circulation.



C A posterior view of the heart; the vessels have been injected with colored latex (liquid rubber).

- Coronary artery disease (CAD)
 - Areas of partial or complete blockage of coronary circulation
- Cardiac muscle cells need a constant supply of oxygen and nutrients
 - Reduction in blood flow to heart muscle reduces cardiac performance
- Coronary ischemia
 - Reduced circulatory supply from partial or complete blockage of coronary arteries



Normal Heart A color-enhanced digital subtraction angiography (DSA) scan of a normal heart.



- Coronary artery disease
 - Usual cause is formation of a fatty deposit, or atherosclerotic plaque, in wall of coronary vessel
 - The plaque, or an associated thrombus (clot), narrows passageway and reduces blood flow
 - Spasms in smooth muscles of vessel wall can further decrease or stop blood flow



- Angina pectoris
 - Commonly one of the first symptoms of CAD
 - A temporary ischemia develops when workload of heart increases
 - Individual may feel comfortable at rest
 - Exertion or emotional stress can produce sensations of pressure, chest constriction, and pain
 - Pain may radiate from sternal area to arms, back, and neck

- Myocardial infarction (MI), or heart attack
 - Part of coronary circulation becomes blocked
 - Cardiac muscle cells die from lack of oxygen
 - Death of affected tissue creates a nonfunctional area known as an infarct
 - Most commonly results from severe CAD
 - Coronary thrombosis
 - Thrombus formation at a plaque
 - Most common cause of an MI



- Myocardial infarction
 - Consequences depend on site and nature of circulatory blockage
 - If near the start of one of the coronary arteries
 - Damage will be widespread and heart may stop beating
 - If blockage involves small arterial branch
 - Individual may survive the immediate crisis
 - But may have complications such as reduced contractility and cardiac arrhythmias

- Myocardial infarction
 - Causes intense, persistent pain, even at rest
 - Pain is not always felt
 - May go undiagnosed and untreated
 - Often diagnosed with ECG and blood studies
 - Damaged myocardial cells release enzymes into circulation
 - Cardiac troponin T
 - Cardiac troponin I
 - A form of creatinine phosphokinase, CK-MB

- Treatment of CAD and myocardial infarction
 - About 25 percent of MI patients die before obtaining medical assistance
 - 65 percent of MI deaths among people under age 50 occur within an hour

- Risk factor modification
 - Stop smoking
 - Treat high blood pressure
 - Adjust diet to lower cholesterol and promote weight loss
 - Reduce stress
 - Increase physical activity

- Drug treatments are used to
 - Reduce coagulation (e.g., aspirin and coumadin)
 - Block sympathetic stimulation (propranolol or metoprolol)
 - Cause vasodilation (e.g., nitroglycerin)
 - Block calcium ion movement into muscle cells (calcium ion channel blockers)
 - Relieve pain and help dissolve clots (in MI)

- Noninvasive surgery
 - Atherectomy
 - Long, slender catheter is inserted into coronary artery to remove plaque
 - Balloon angioplasty
 - Tip of catheter contains inflatable balloon
 - Inflated balloon presses plaque against vessel walls
 - Plaques commonly redevelop
 - A stent may be inserted to hold vessel open

- Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG)
 - Small section of another vessel is removed
 - Used to create detour around obstructed portion of coronary artery
 - Up to four coronary arteries can be rerouted during a single operation
 - Single, double, triple, or quadruple coronary bypasses

Heartbeat

- A single cardiac contraction
- All heart chambers contract in series
 - First the atria
 - Then the ventricles
- Two types of cardiac muscle cells
 - Autorhythmic cells
 - Control and coordinate heartbeat
 - Contractile cells
 - Produce contractions that propel blood

Conducting system

- Consists of specialized cardiac muscle cells
 - Initiate and distribute electrical impulses that stimulate contraction

– Autorhythmicity

 Cardiac muscle tissue contracts without neural or hormonal stimulation

- Components of the conducting system
 - Pacemaker cells found in
 - Sinoatrial (SA) node—in wall of right atrium
 - Atrioventricular (AV) node—at junction between atria and ventricles
 - Conducting cells found in
 - Internodal pathways of atria
 - Atrioventricular (AV) bundle, bundle branches, and Purkinje fibers of ventricles

Pacemaker potential

- Gradual depolarization of pacemaker cells
 - Do not have a stable resting membrane potential
- Rate of spontaneous depolarization
 - SA node: 60–100 action potentials per minute
 - AV node: 40–60 action potentials per minute
- SA node depolarizes first
 - Establishing sinus rhythm
- Parasympathetic stimulation slows heart rate


a Components of the conducting system.



b Changes in the membrane potential of a pacemaker cell in the SA node that is establishing a heart rate of 72 beats per minute. Note the pacemaker potential, a gradual spontaneous depolarization.

- Impulse conduction through the heart
 - 1. SA node activity and atrial activation begin
 - 2. Stimulus spreads across atria and reaches AV node
 - 3. Impulse is delayed for 100 msec at AV node
 - Atrial contraction begins

Figure 20–11 Impulse Conduction through the Heart and Accompanying ECG Tracings (Part 1 of 5).



Figure 20–11 Impulse Conduction through the Heart and Accompanying ECG Tracings (Part 2 of 5).



Figure 20–11 Impulse Conduction through the Heart and Accompanying ECG Tracings (Part 3 of 5).



- Impulse conduction through the heart
 - 4. Impulse travels in AV bundle to **left** and **right bundle branches** in interventricular septum
 - To Purkinje fibers
 - And to papillary muscles via moderator band
 - 5. Purkinje fibers distribute impulse to ventricular myocardium
 - Atrial contraction is completed
 - Ventricular contraction begins



Figure 20–11 Impulse Conduction through the Heart and Accompanying ECG Tracings (Part 5 of 5).

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The impulse is distributed by Purkinje fibers and relayed throughout the ventricular myocardium. Atrial contraction is completed, and ventricular contraction begins.



QRS complex:

completion of ventricular depolarization



Elapsed time = 225 msec

Purkinje fibers 4

- Disturbances in heart rhythm
 - Bradycardia—abnormally slow heart rate
 - Tachycardia—abnormally fast heart rate
 - Ectopic pacemaker
 - Abnormal cells generate high rate of action potentials
 - Bypasses conducting system
 - Disrupts timing of ventricular contractions

Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG)

- A recording of electrical events in the heart
- Obtained by placing electrodes at specific locations on body surface
- Abnormal patterns are used to diagnose damage

- Features of an ECG
 - P wave
 - Depolarization of atria
 - QRS complex
 - Depolarization of ventricles
 - Ventricles begin contracting shortly after R wave
 - T wave
 - Repolarization of ventricles

- Time intervals between ECG waves
 - P–R interval
 - From start of atrial depolarization
 - To start of QRS complex
 - Q–T interval
 - Time required for ventricles to undergo a single cycle of depolarization and repolarization





a Electrode placement for recording a standard ECG.



b An ECG printout is a strip of graph paper containing a record of the electrical events monitored by the electrodes. The placement of electrodes on the body surface affects the size and shape of the waves recorded. The example is a normal ECG; the enlarged section indicates the major components of the ECG and the measurements most often taken during clinical analysis.





Cardiac contractile cells

- Form bulk of atrial and ventricular walls
- Receive stimulus from Purkinje fibers
- Resting membrane potential
 - Of ventricular cell is about –90 mV
 - Of atrial cell is about –80 mV

Intercalated discs

- Interconnect cardiac contractile cells
- Membranes of adjacent cells are
 - Held together by desmosomes
 - Linked by gap junctions
- Transfer force of contraction from cell to cell
- Propagate action potentials





b Structure of an intercalated disc



- Characteristics of cardiac contractile cells
 - Small size
 - Single, central nucleus
 - Branching interconnections between cells
 - Intercalated discs

- Action potential in cardiac contractile cells
 - 1. Rapid depolarization
 - Massive influx of Na⁺ through fast sodium channels
 - 2. Plateau
 - Extracellular Ca²⁺ enters cytosol through slow calcium channels
 - 3. Repolarization
 - K⁺ rushes out of cell through slow potassium channels

Refractory period

- Absolute refractory period (200 msec)
 - Cardiac contractile cells cannot respond
- Relative refractory period (50 msec)
 - Cells respond only to strong stimuli
- Action potential in a ventricular contractile cell
 - 250-300 msec
 - 30 times longer than that in skeletal muscle fiber
 - Prevents summation and tetany

Figure 20–15a Action Potentials in Cardiac Contractile Cells and Skeletal Muscle Fibers.



a Events in an action potential in a ventricular contractile cell.



Action potentials and twitch contractions in a skeletal muscle fiber (above) and cardiac contractile cell (below). The shaded areas indicate the durations of the absolute (blue) and relative (beige) refractory periods.



- Role of calcium ions in cardiac contractions
 - Extracellular Ca²⁺ crosses plasma membrane during plateau phase
 - Provides roughly 20 percent of Ca²⁺ required for contraction
 - Entry of extracellular Ca²⁺ triggers release of additional Ca²⁺ from sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR)

- Role of calcium ions in cardiac contractions
 - Cardiac muscle tissue
 - Very sensitive to extracellular Ca²⁺ concentrations
 - As slow calcium channels close,
 - Intracellular Ca²⁺ is pumped back into SR or out of cell

- Energy for cardiac contractions
 - Aerobic energy
 - From mitochondrial breakdown of fatty acids and glucose
 - Oxygen is delivered by circulation
 - Cardiac contractile cells store oxygen in *myoglobin*

20-3 The Cardiac Cycle

Cardiac cycle

- From start of one heartbeat to beginning of next
- Includes alternating periods of contraction and relaxation
- Phases of the cardiac cycle within each chamber
 - Systole (contraction)
 - Diastole (relaxation)














Smart Video: The Cardiac Cycle

- Blood pressure in each chamber
 - Rises during systole
 - Falls during diastole
- Blood flows from an area of higher pressure to one of lower pressure
 - Controlled by timing of contractions
 - Directed by one-way valves

- Cardiac cycle and heart rate
 - At 75 beats per minute (bpm),
 - Cardiac cycle lasts about 800 msec
 - When heart rate increases,
 - All phases of cardiac cycle shorten, particularly diastole

- Phases of the cardiac cycle
 - Atrial systole
 - Atrial diastole
 - Ventricular systole
 - Ventricular diastole

Atrial systole

- 1. Atrial contraction begins
 - Right and left AV valves are open
- 2. Atria eject blood into ventricles

Ventricular systole and atrial diastole

- 3. Atrial systole ends
 - Atrial diastole begins
 - Ventricles contain maximum blood volume
 - Known as *end-diastolic volume* (*EDV*)
- 4. Ventricles contract and build pressure
 - Closing AV valves
 - Producing isovolumetric contraction

- Ventricular systole
 - 5. Ventricular ejection
 - Ventricular pressure exceeds arterial pressure
 - Opens semilunar valves, allowing blood to exit
 - Amount of blood ejected = stroke volume (SV)
 - 6. Semilunar valves close
 - As ventricular pressure falls
 - Ventricles contain end-systolic volume (ESV)

- About 40 percent of end-diastolic volume

Figure 20–17 Pressure and Volume Relationships in the Cardiac Cycle (Part 3 of 4).



- Ventricular diastole
 - 7. Isovolumetric relaxation
 - All heart valves are closed
 - Ventricular pressure is higher than atrial pressure
 Blood cannot flow into ventricles
 - 8. AV valves open; ventricles fill passively
 - Atrial pressure is higher than ventricular pressure
- Individuals can survive severe atrial damage
 - Ventricular damage can lead to heart failure

Figure 20–17 Pressure and Volume Relationships in the Cardiac Cycle (Part 4 of 4).



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- Heart sounds
 - Detected with a stethoscope
 - S₁—Loud sound as AV valves close
 - S₂_Loud sound as semilunar valves close
 - S₃, S₄—Soft sounds
 - Blood flowing into ventricles and atrial contraction
 - Heart murmur
 - Sounds produced by regurgitation through valves



a Placements of a stethoscope for listening to the different sounds produced by individual valves

Figure 20–18b Heart Sounds.



b The relationship between heart sounds and key events in the cardiac cycle

Cardiac output (CO)

- Volume pumped by left ventricle in one minute
- CO = HR \times SV
 - CO = cardiac output (mL/min)
 - **HR** = **heart rate** (beats/min)
 - SV = stroke volume (mL/beat)



Smart Video: The Conducting System of the Heart

- Stroke volume (SV)
 - SV = EDV—ESV
 - End-diastolic volume (EDV)
 - Amount of blood in each ventricle at end of ventricular diastole
 - End-systolic volume (ESV)
 - Amount of blood remaining in each ventricle at end of ventricular systole
 - Ejection fraction
 - Percentage of EDV ejected during contraction



When the pump handle is raised, pressure within the cylinder decreases, and water enters through a one-way valve. This corresponds to passive filling during ventricular diastole.





At the start of the pumping cycle, the amount of water in the cylinder corresponds to the amount of blood in a ventricle at the end of ventricular diastole. This amount is known as the **enddiastolic volume (EDV).**



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When the handle is depressed as far as it will go, some water will remain in the cylinder. That amount corresponds to the **end-systolic volume (ESV)** remaining in the ventricle at the end of ventricular systole. The amount of water pumped out corresponds to the stroke volume of the heart; the **stroke volume** is the difference between the EDV and the ESV.

- Factors affecting heart rate
 - Autonomic activity
 - Circulating hormones

- Autonomic innervation
 - Cardiac plexus innervates heart
 - Vagus nerves (CN X) carry parasympathetic fibers to small ganglia in cardiac plexus
 - Cardiac centers of medulla oblongata
 - Cardioacceleratory center controls sympathetic neurons that increase heart rate
 - Cardioinhibitory center controls parasympathetic neurons that slow heart rate

- Cardiac reflexes
 - Cardiac centers
 - Monitor blood pressure (baroreceptors)
 - Monitor arterial oxygen and carbon dioxide levels (chemoreceptors)
 - Adjust cardiac activity
- Autonomic tone
 - Maintained by dual innervation and release of ACh and NE
 - Fine adjustments meet needs of other systems



- Effects on pacemaker cells of SA node
 - Membrane potentials of pacemaker cells
 - Are closer to threshold than those of cardiac contractile cells
 - Any factor that changes the rate of spontaneous depolarization or the duration of repolarization
 - Will alter heart rate
 - By changing time required to reach threshold



Pacemaker cells have membrane potentials closer to threshold than those of cardiac contractile cells (-60 mV versus -90 mV). Their plasma membranes spontaneously depolarize to threshold, producing action potentials at a frequency determined by (1) the membrane potential and (2) the rate of depolarization.

- Effects on pacemaker cells of SA node
 - ACh released by parasympathetic neurons
 - Decreases heart rate
 - NE released by sympathetic neurons
 - Increases heart rate





C Sympathetic stimulation releases NE, which shortens repolarization and accelerates the rate of spontaneous depolarization. As a result, the heart rate increases.

Bainbridge reflex (atrial reflex)

- Adjustments in heart rate in response to increase in venous return
 - Amount of blood returning to heart through veins
- Stretch receptors in right atrium
 - Trigger increase in heart rate by stimulating sympathetic activity

- Hormonal effects on heart rate
 - Heart rate is increased by
 - Epinephrine (E)
 - Norepinephrine (NE)
 - Thyroid hormone (T₃)

- Factors affecting stroke volume
 - Changes in EDV or ESV affect stroke volume
 - And thus cardiac output
 - Two factors affect EDV
 - Filling time
 - Duration of ventricular diastole
 - Venous return

Preload

- Degree of ventricular stretching during ventricular diastole
- Directly proportional to EDV
- Affects ability of muscle cells to produce tension
- EDV and stroke volume
 - At rest,
 - EDV is low
 - Myocardium is stretched very little
 - Stroke volume is relatively low
 - With exercise,
 - Venous return increases
 - EDV increases
 - Myocardium stretches more
 - Stroke volume increases

Frank–Starling Principle

- As EDV increases, stroke volume increases
- Physical limits
 - Ventricular expansion is limited by
 - Myocardial connective tissues
 - Cardiac skeleton
 - Pericardium

- Three factors affect ESV
 - Preload
 - Ventricular stretching during diastole
 - Contractility
 - Force produced during contraction at a given preload
 - Affected by autonomic activity and hormones
 - Afterload
 - Tension that must be produced by ventricle to open semilunar valve and eject blood

- Effects of autonomic activity on contractility
 - Sympathetic stimulation
 - NE released by cardiac nerves
 - E and NE released by adrenal medullae
 - Causes ventricles to contract with more force
 - Increases ejection fraction, decreases ESV
 - Parasympathetic stimulation
 - ACh released by vagus nerves
 - Reduces force of cardiac contractions

- Hormones
 - Many hormones affect heart contractility
 - Pharmaceutical drugs mimic hormone actions
 - Stimulate or block alpha or beta receptors
 - Block calcium channels
- Afterload
 - Increased by any factor that restricts blood flow
 - As afterload increases, stroke volume decreases



- Summary: the control of cardiac output
 - Heart rate control factors
 - Autonomic nervous system
 - Sympathetic and parasympathetic
 - Circulating hormones
 - Venous return and stretch receptors
 - Stroke volume control factors
 - EDV—filling time and rate of venous return
 - ESV—preload, contractility, and afterload



Cardiac reserve

 Difference between resting and maximal cardiac outputs

- Heart and vessels of cardiovascular system
 - Cardiovascular regulation
 - Ensures adequate circulation to body tissues
 - Cardiac centers
 - Control heart rate and peripheral blood vessels
 - Cardiovascular system responds to
 - Changing activity patterns
 - Circulatory emergencies