

Glossary

aorta - a major artery in the human body. It transports oxygenated blood from the left ventricle to different parts of the body.

artery - a blood vessel that transports blood away from the heart.

atrioventricular (AV) valves - valves between the atria and the ventricles. The mitral and the tricuspid valves are the AV valves.

atrium - an upper chamber of the heart. The human heart has two atria: a left atrium and a right atrium.

blood - fluid containing oxygen and nutrients that is pumped through the arteries, capillaries and veins by the heart.

blood vessel - a tube-like tissue that carries blood throughout the body. Arteries, capillaries and veins are blood vessels.

capillary - a thin blood vessel that connects arteries and veins. Oxygen exchange occurs through the walls of capillaries.

chamber - a blood-filled compartment of the heart. The human heart has four chambers: two atria and two ventricles.

heart - vital organ that pumps blood throughout the body to provide it with oxygen and nutrients.

pulmonary artery - the artery that transports deoxygenated blood from the right ventricle to the lungs.

pulmonary vein - the vein that transports oxygenated blood from the lungs to the left atrium.

septum - the thick muscle separating the chambers of the heart.

valve - a flap of tissue that keeps blood flowing in one direction, preventing backflow in the circulatory system.

vein - a blood vessel that brings blood back to the heart from the lungs or other parts of the body.

vena cava - the vein that brings deoxygenated blood from different parts of the body into the right atrium of the heart.

ventricle - a lower chamber of the heart. The human heart has two ventricles: a left ventricle and a right ventricle.