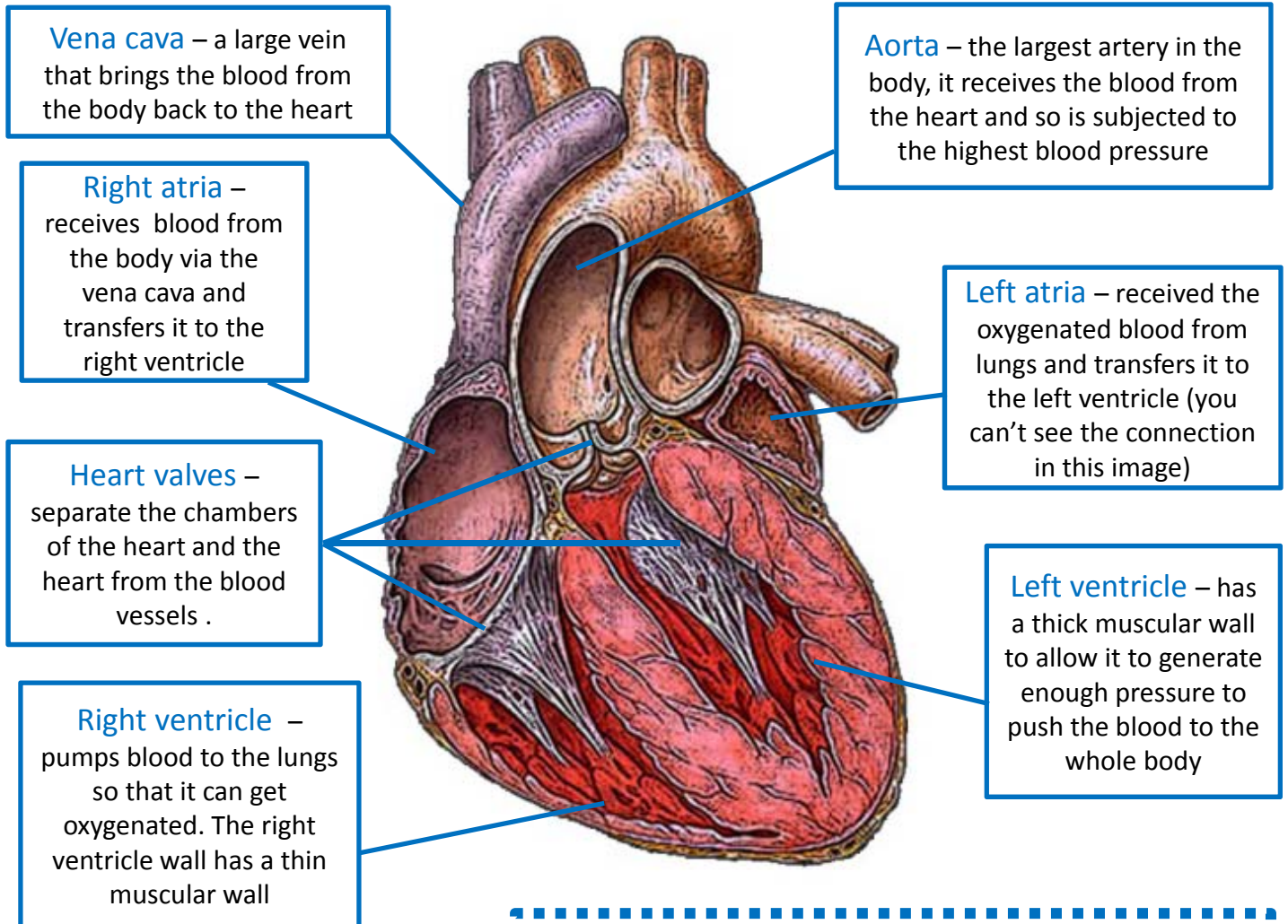


Anatomy - The Heart

Summary: The heart is a muscular organ that pumps the blood around the body. The heart is actually only a small organ about 12cm x 9cm x 6cm (about as big as your fist). It is located just to the left of the middle of your chest, protected by the breastbone. The heart is made up of four chambers, two atria and two ventricles.



Lub Dub Did you know?

Opening and closing of the heart valves is the noise you hear when you listen to the heart. If the valves are damaged a murmur can be heard.

Clinical anatomy:

When a doctor wants to look at the way the heart is working they do an ECG. This shows them the electrical activity that is occurring in the heart as the heart muscles contract and relax.

We have all seen an ECG trace on television and it looks something like the one shown here. An ECG is usually done with three connections to the body but to get a 3D picture the doctor will use a 12 lead ECG.

