

# Heart 101 Vocabulary

## 1. Valves

### a. Bicuspid Valve (aka Mitral Valve)

- i.** a valve in the heart that guards the opening between the left atrium and the left ventricle, prevents the blood in the ventricle from returning to the atrium, and consists of two triangular flaps attached at their bases

### b. Aortic Valve

- i.** the semilunar (crescent shaped) valve separating the aorta from the left ventricle that prevents blood from flowing back into the left ventricle

### c. Pulmonary Valve

- i.** a valve consisting of three semilunar cusps separating the pulmonary trunk from the right ventricle

### d. Tricuspid Valve

- i.** a valve that is situated at the opening of the right atrium of the heart into the right ventricle and that resembles the mitral valve in structure but consists of three triangular membranous flaps

## 2. Chambers of the Heart

### a. Atria

- i.** a chamber of the heart that receives blood from the veins and forces it into a ventricle or ventricles

### b. Ventricles

- i.** a chamber of the heart which receives blood from a corresponding atrium and from which blood is forced into the arteries

## 3. Circulation

### a. Pulmonary Circulation

- i.** the passage of venous blood from the right atrium of the heart through the right ventricle and pulmonary arteries to the lungs where it is oxygenated and its return via the pulmonary veins

### b. Systemic Circulation

- i.** the passage of arterial blood from the left atrium of the heart through the left ventricle, the systemic arteries, and the capillaries to the organs and tissues that receive much of its oxygen in exchange for carbon dioxide and the return of the carbon-dioxide carrying blood via the systemic veins to enter the right atrium of the heart and to participate in the pulmonary circulation

## 4. Pulmonary

- a.** relating to, functioning like, associated with, or carried on by the lungs

## 5. Cardiac Muscles

### a. Pericardium

- i.** The tough sac in which the heart is housed

### b. Myocardium

- i.** The muscles of the heart wall.

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### **6. Superior and Inferior Vena Cava**

**a.** a large vein carrying deoxygenated blood into the heart. There are two in humans, the *inferior vena cava* (carrying blood from the lower body) and the *superior vena cava* (carrying blood from the head, arms, and upper body).

### **7. Cardiac Cycles**

#### **a. Diastole**

**i.** the phase of the heartbeat when the heart muscle relaxes and allows the chambers to fill with blood.

#### **b. Systole**

**i.** the phase of the heartbeat when the heart muscle contracts and pumps blood from the chambers into the arteries.

### **8. Right and Left Coronary Arteries**

**a.** either of two arteries that originate in the aorta and supply the heart-muscle with blood.

### **9. Anti-Platelet Drugs**

**a.** An anti-platelet drug (antiaggregant) is a member of a class of pharmaceuticals that decrease platelet aggregation and inhibit thrombus (a stationary blood clot along the wall of a blood vessel) formation. They are effective in the arterial circulation, where anticoagulants have little effect.

### **10. Diuretics**

**a.** Hormones and drugs that cause the urinary system to release water. This reduces the volume of the blood in the body.

**b.** Antidiuretic drugs and hormones work in the reverse way

### **11. Cardiac Output = Heart Rate x Stroke Volume**

**a.** The volume of blood pumped from the right or left ventricle in one minute. It is equal to the stroke volume multiplied by the heart rate.

### **12. Murmurs**

**a.** Heart murmurs are abnormal sounds during your heartbeat cycle — such as whooshing or swishing — made by turbulent blood in or near your heart. These sounds can be heard with a stethoscope. A normal heartbeat makes two sounds like "lubb-dupp" (sometimes described as "lub-DUP"), which are the sounds of your heart valves closing.

### **13. Heart Failure**

**a.** Heart failure, sometimes known as congestive heart failure (CHF), occurs when your heart muscle doesn't pump blood as well as it should. Conditions such as narrowed arteries in your heart (coronary artery disease) or high blood pressure gradually leave your heart too weak or stiff to fill and pump efficiently.