

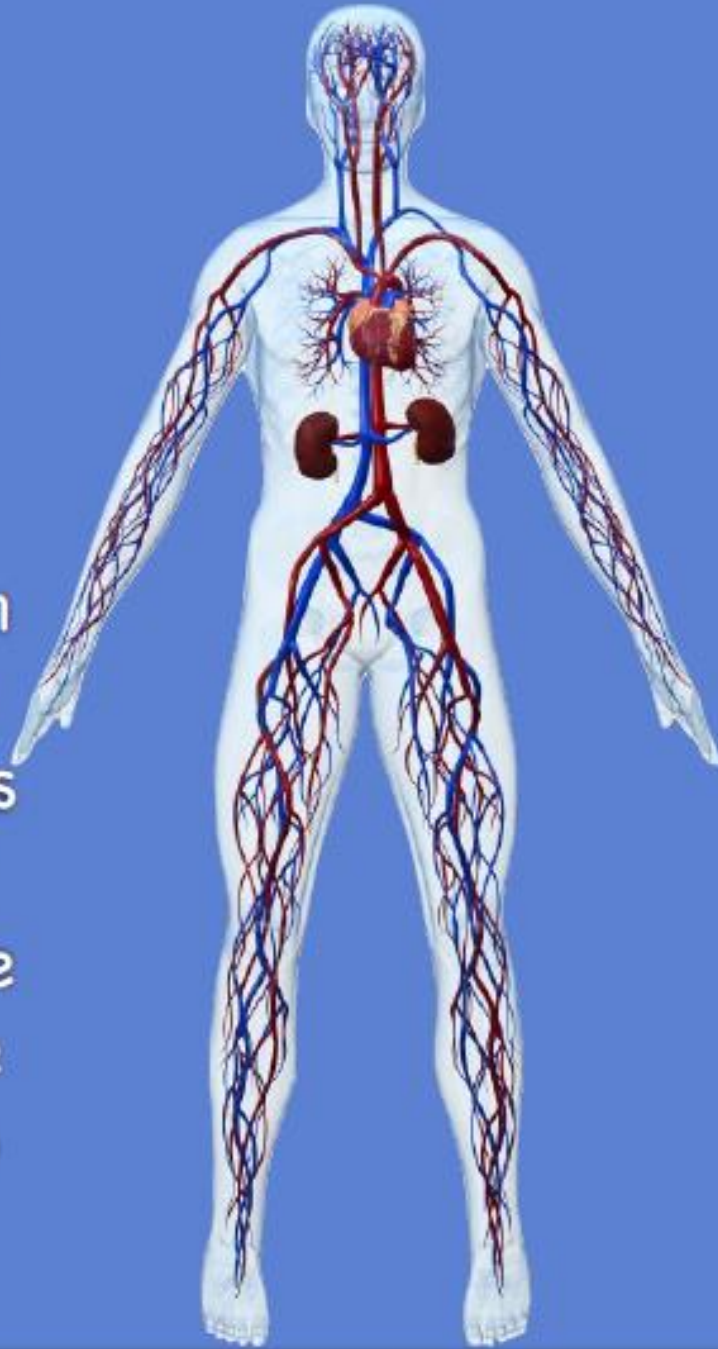
The Heart



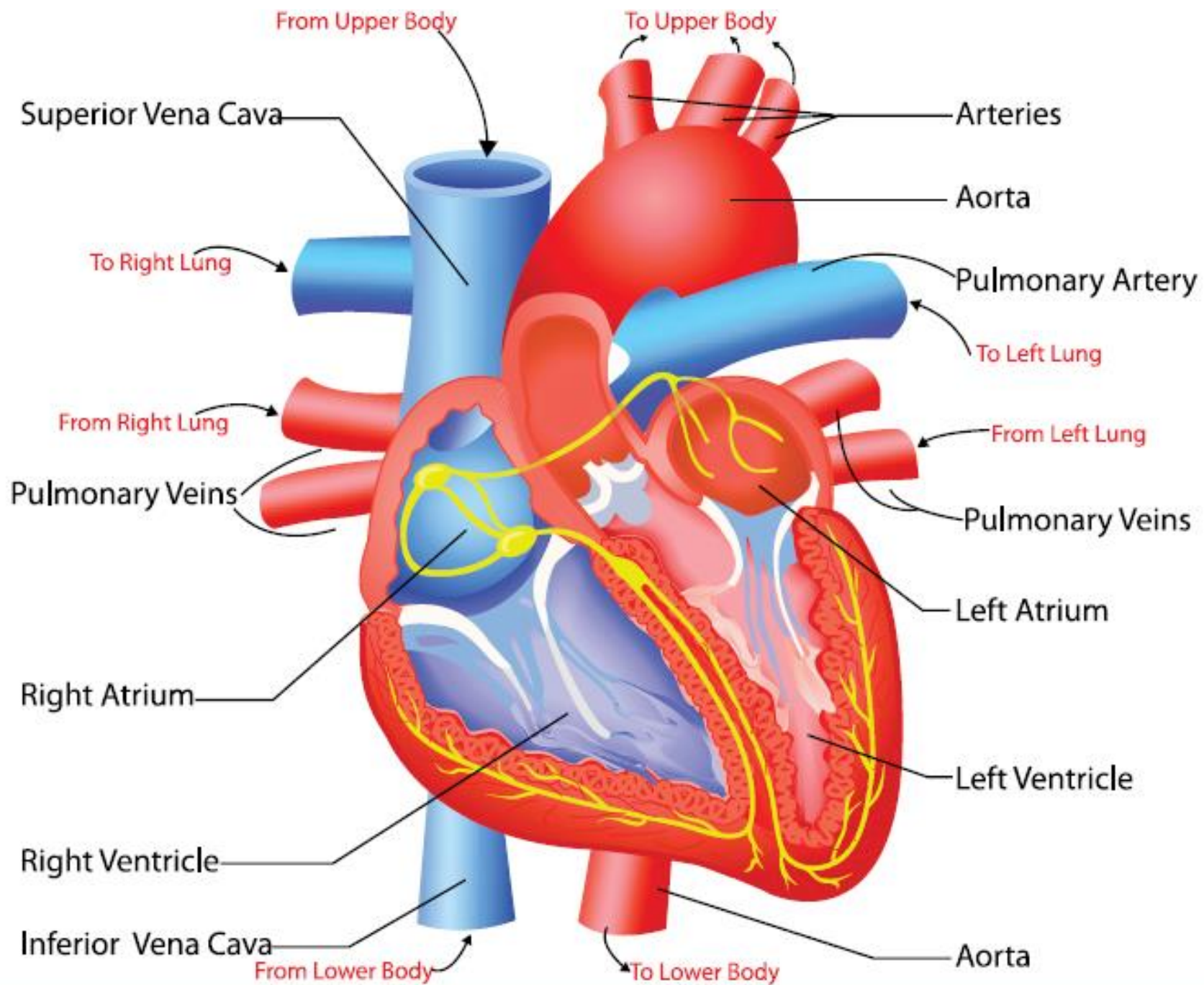
The heart is a muscle that is located between the lungs, just to the left of the centre of the chest. The function of the heart is to pump blood around the body so that the oxygen in the blood (taken from the lungs) can be delivered to the rest of the body. Blood vessels called arteries carry blood full of oxygen to the rest of the body.

Veins carry the blood back to the heart once the oxygen has been delivered. There are lots of tiny tubes called capillaries which make sure that the oxygen in the blood gets to every part of the body.

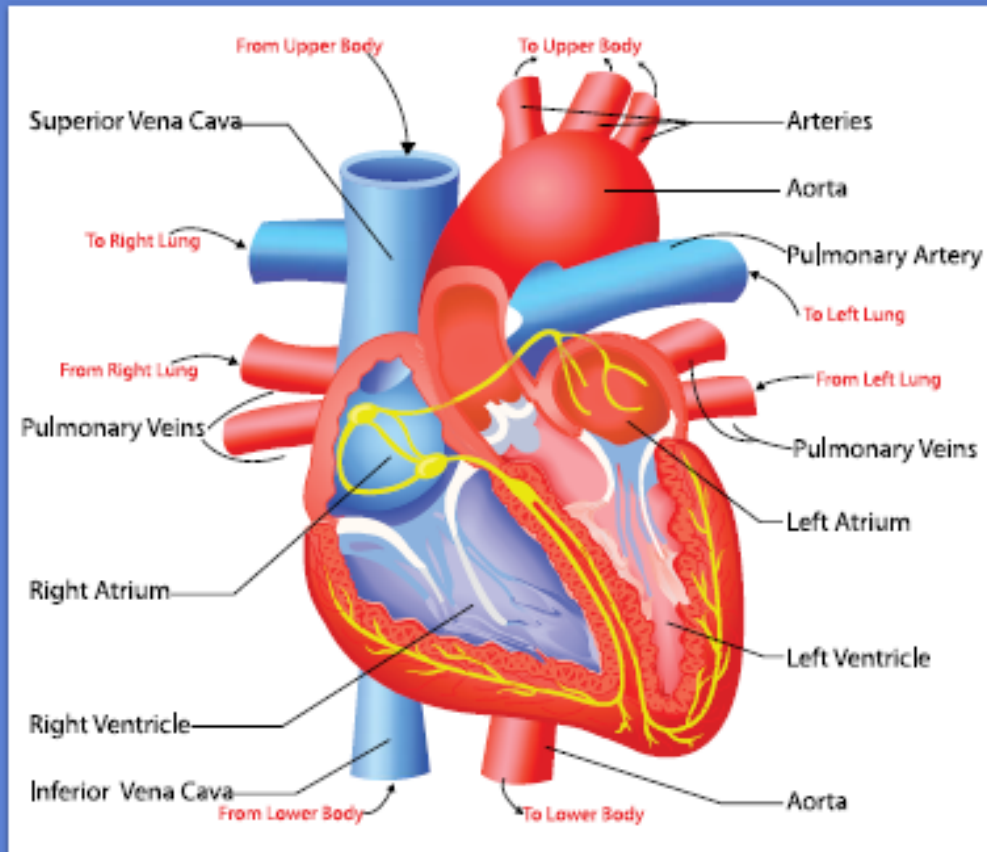
This diagram shows the circulatory system. The red tubes are the **ARTERIES** that deliver the oxygen and nutrients to the different parts of the body. The blue tubes are the **VEINS** which take the blood back to the heart.



Every time your heart beats the muscle is contracting to pump blood around the body. The heart pumps continuously because of signals from the brain. You don't need to think about your heart beating - it just does it!



This diagram shows the different chambers, veins and arteries that make up the heart. The red parts of the heart show the oxygenated blood (blood with oxygen in it from the lungs). The blue parts show the deoxygenated blood (blood that doesn't have oxygen in it because the oxygen has been delivered to different parts of the body).



Did you notice that there are blue arteries and red veins?

These blood vessels are the exception to the rule. The pulmonary vein is oxygenated (unlike other veins) because it carries blood from the lungs to the heart. The pulmonary artery carries deoxygenated blood from the heart to the lungs.

Double or Figure of Eight Circulation

