

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Heart:

- Roughly size of human fist (~ 250 – 350 grams)
- Located in the **mediastinum** (medial cavity of thorax)
- "Double pump" composed of cardiac muscle

Point of maximum intensity

2/3 of heart mass lies left of mid-sternal line

Base

Coronary sulcus

Anterior interventricular sulcus

Apex

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figures 18.1 / 18.4

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Heart:

Pericardial sac: Double-walled sac enclosing the heart

Fibrous pericardium

- Protects heart
- Anchors heart
- Prevents overfilling

Parietal pericardium

Pericardial cavity

- Contains serous fluid (friction-free environment)

Visceral pericardium

Cardiac Tamponade:
Compression of heart due to fluid / blood build up in pericardial cavity

Pericarditis:
Inflammation of the pericardial sac

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.2

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Heart:

Heart layers:

- Anchors cardiac fibers
- Reinforces heart structures
- Directs electrical signals

Epicardium

- Often infiltrated with fat

Myocardium

- Contains fibrous skeleton

Endocardium

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figures 18.2 / 18.3

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Heart – Chambers, Vessels & Valves

Ligamentum arteriosum:
Remnant of fetal duct between aorta and pulmonary trunk (ductus arteriosus)

Pectinate muscles:
Muscle bundles; assist in atrial contraction

Fossa ovalis:
Shallow depression; remnants of hole between atria in fetal heart

Ventricles:

- Discharging chambers
- Large, thick-walled

Atria:

- Receiving chambers
- Small, thin-walled

Auricles: ("little ears")
Increase atrial volume

Papillary muscle:
Cone-like muscle; assists in valve closure

Trabeculae carneae:
Muscle ridges; assist in maintaining momentum

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.4

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Heart – Chambers, Vessels & Valves

Superior vena cava
Returns blood above diaphragm

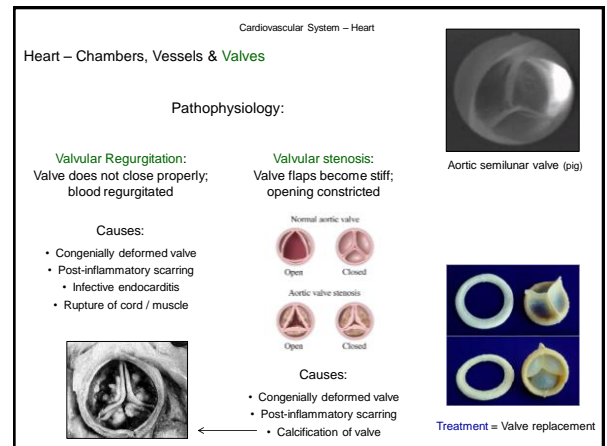
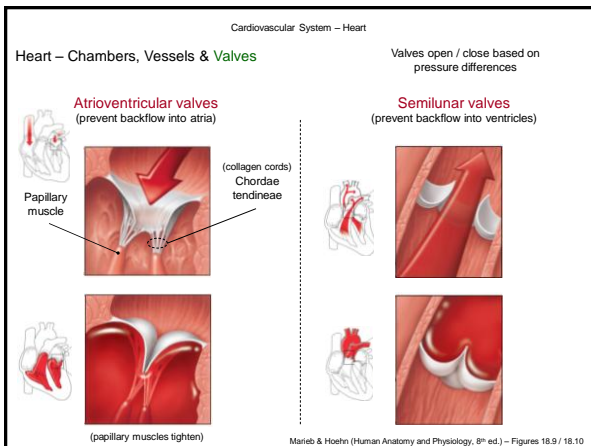
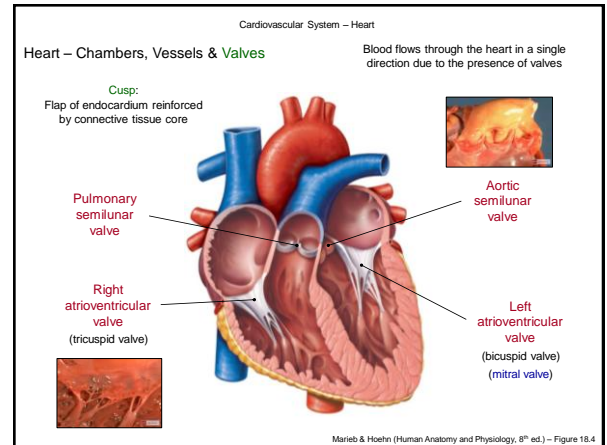
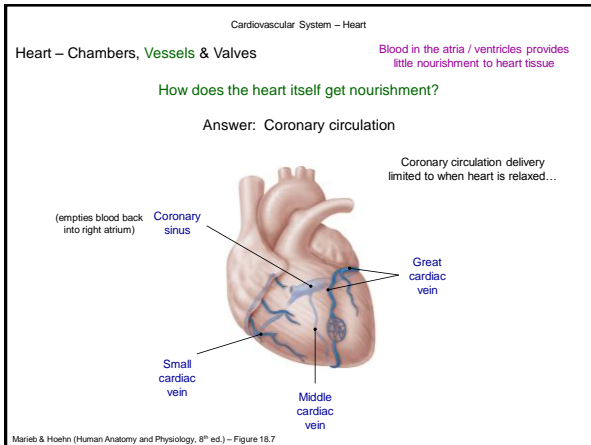
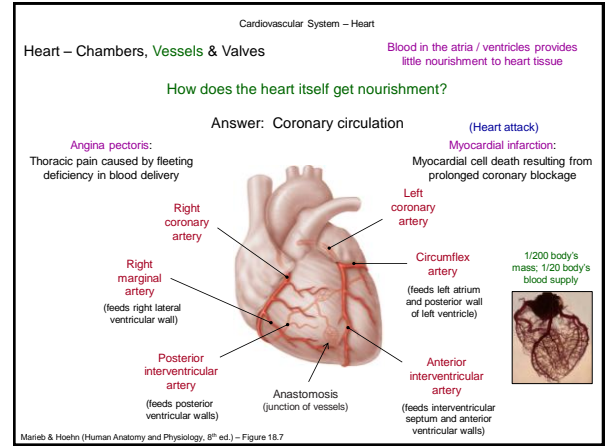
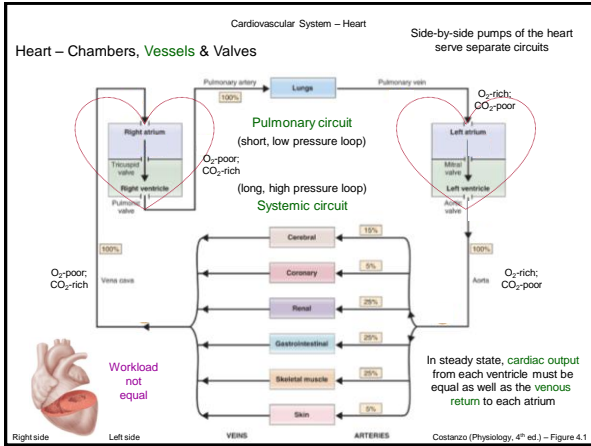
Inferior vena cava
Returns blood below diaphragm

Aorta (largest artery in body)
Carries blood to body

Pulmonary veins (4)
Returns blood from lungs

Pulmonary trunk
Carries blood to lungs

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.4



Cardiovascular System – Heart

Heart – Chambers, Vessels & Valves

Heart designed to create complex flow patterns (direct / maintain blood momentum)

- 1) Chambers arranged in loop pattern
- 2) Delivery vessels curved
- 3) Grooves / ridges within chambers

Randall et al. (Animal Physiology, 5th ed.) – Figures 12.4 / 12.10

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Muscle Fiber Anatomy

- Striated, branched cells (~ 85 – 100 μm)
- Single nucleus (sometimes two...)
- Large [mitochondria] (~ 15x skeletal muscle)
 - High fatigue resistance
- Electrical synapses (intercalated discs)

Functional syncytium: The entire myocardium behaves as a single coordinated unit

Contractile cell: AP

Less elaborate T-tubule system and sarcoplasmic reticulum compared to skeletal muscle

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.11

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Electrophysiology

System allows for orderly, sequential depolarization and contraction of heart

Intrinsic Conduction System:

Normal sinus rhythm:

- 1) AP originates at SA node
- 2) SA node fires at 60 – 100 beats / min
- 3) Correct myocardial activation sequence

Conducting cells: Cardiac cells specialized to quickly spread action potentials across myocardium

- Weak force generators

Sinoatrial node: (SA node)

- Located in right atrial wall
- Initiates action potentials (APs)
- Pacemaker (~ 80 beats / min)

Atrioventricular node: (AV Node)

- Connects atria to ventricles
- Slowed conduction velocity
- Ventricular filling

Labels: Atrial internodal tracts, Bundle branches, Purkinje fibers, Bundle of His

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.14

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Electrophysiology

The concepts applied to cardiac APs are the same concepts as applied to APs in nerves / skeletal muscle

Review:

- Membrane potential determined by relative conductances / concentrations of permeable ions
- Ions flow down electrochemical gradient toward equilibrium potential (Nernst equation)
- Membrane potential expressed in mV; inside cell expressed relative to outside
- Resting membrane potential determined primarily by K^+ ions (leaky K^+ gates at rest)
- Na^+ / K^+ pumps maintain [gradients] across membranes
- Changes in membrane potential caused by flow of ions into / out of cell
- Threshold potential represents the point at which a depolarization even becomes self-sustaining (voltage-gated channels)

Absolute refractory period, Relative refractory period

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 11.14

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Electrophysiology

APs of Atria, Ventricles & Purkinje System:

Long duration AP (150 – 300 ms)

Plateau: Sustained period of depolarization

Long refractory period

Maximum heart rate: ~ 240 beats / min

Stable RMP

Membrane potential (mV)

Time (ms)

Tension (g)

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.12

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.12

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Electrophysiology

APs of Atria, Ventricles & Purkinje System:

g_x = conductance

VG = voltage-gated

Phases of the Action Potential:

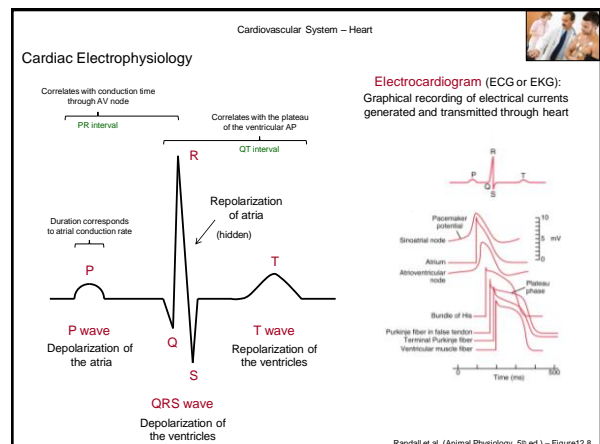
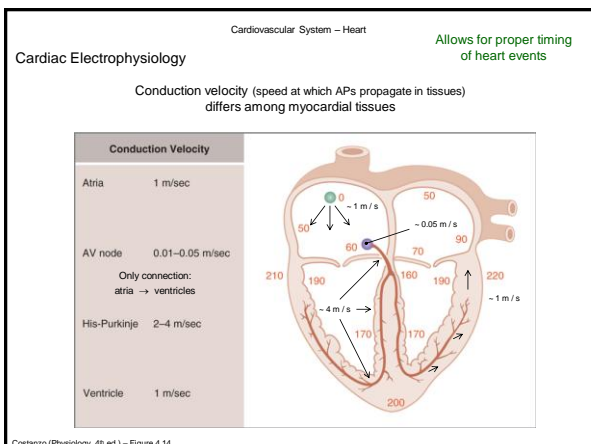
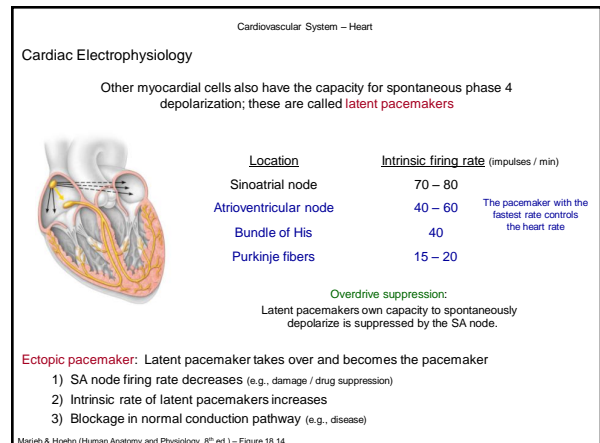
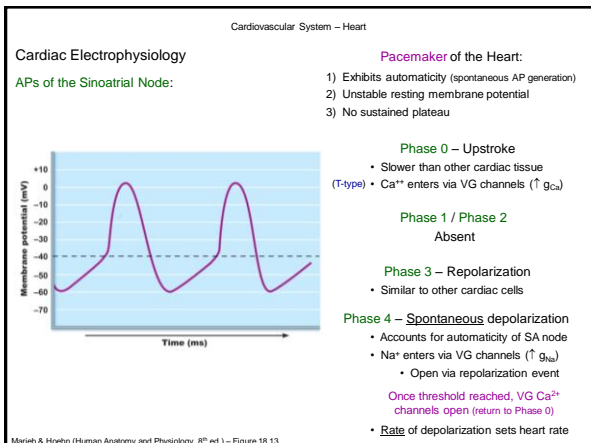
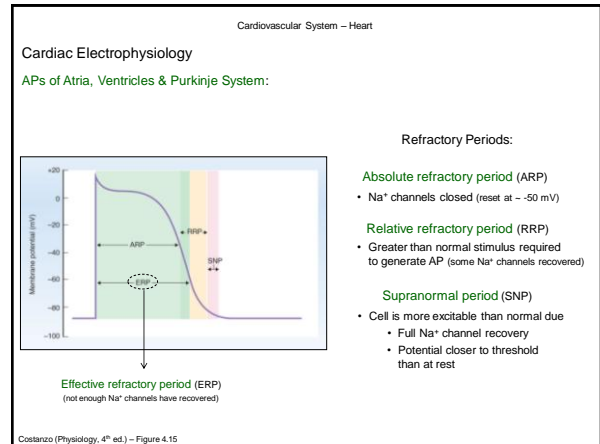
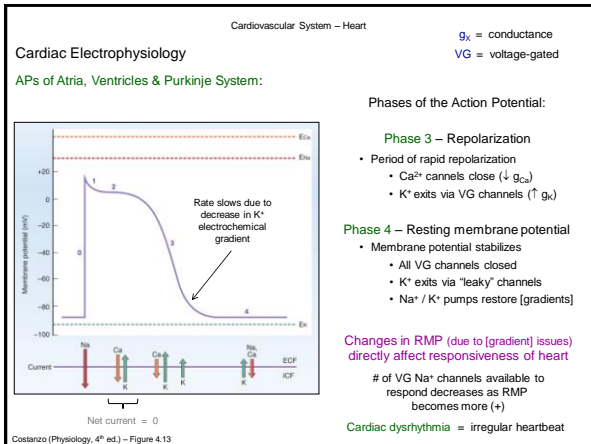
- Phase 0 – Upstroke**
 - Period of rapid depolarization
 - Na^+ enters via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{Na}}$)
- Phase 1 – Initial repolarization**
 - Brief period of repolarization
 - Na^+ channels close ($\downarrow g_{\text{Na}}$)
 - K^+ exits via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{K}}$)
- Phase 2 – Plateau**
 - Stable, depolarized membrane potential
 - K^+ exits via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{K}}$)
 - (L-type) • Ca^{2+} enters via VG channels ($\uparrow g_{\text{Ca}}$)

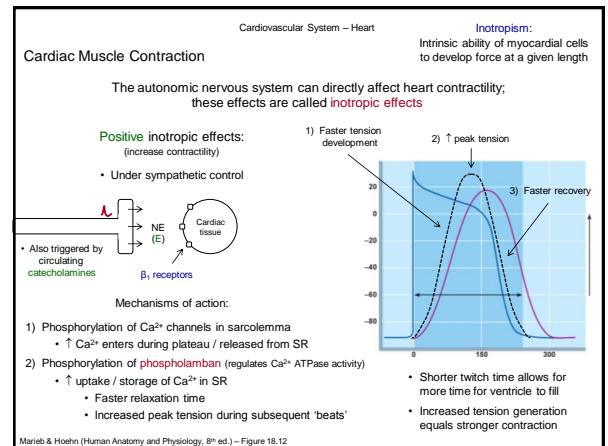
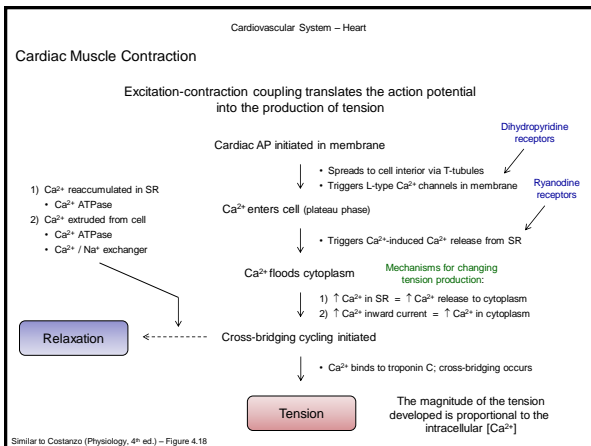
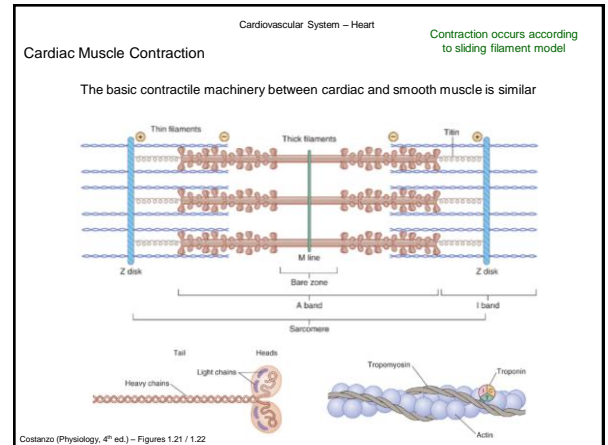
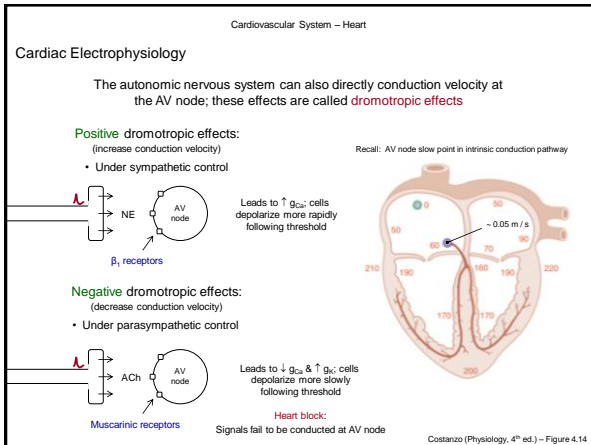
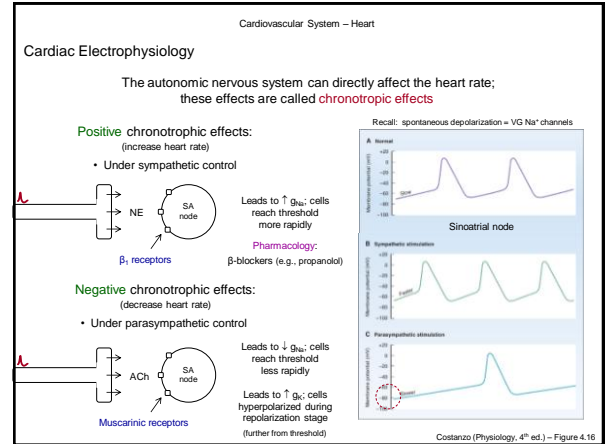
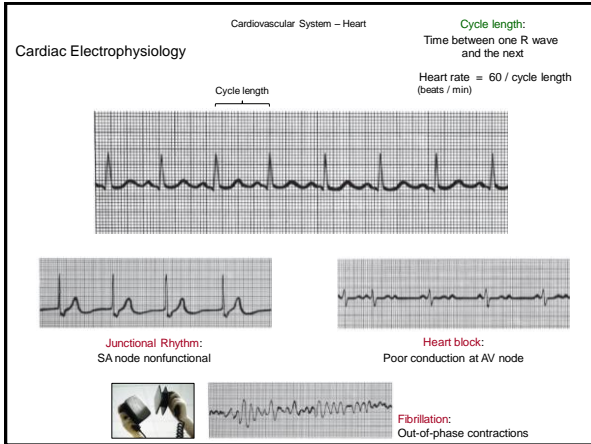
Ca^{2+} entry initiates release of more Ca^{2+} from intracellular stores (excitation-contraction coupling)

Current

Net current = 0

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.13






Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Inotropism: Intrinsic ability of myocardial cells to develop force at a given length

The autonomic nervous system can directly affect heart contractility; these effects are called **inotropic effects**

Positive inotropic effects:
(increase contractility)

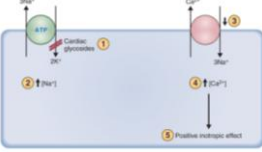


Digoxin
Digitoxin
Ouabain

Digitalis purpurea

Cardiac glycosides are a class of drugs that act as **positive inotropic agents**

Used extensively for the treatment of congestive heart failure



- Cardiac glycosides inhibit Na⁺-K⁺ ATPase
- Intracellular [Na⁺] increases
- Change in Na⁺ gradient slows down Ca²⁺-Na⁺ exchanger
- Intracellular [Ca²⁺] increases
- ↑ [Ca²⁺] = ↑ tension development

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.20

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Muscle Contraction


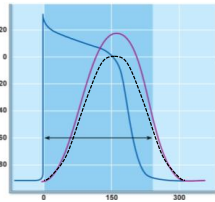
Inotropism: Intrinsic ability of myocardial cells to develop force at a given length

The autonomic nervous system can directly affect heart contractility; these effects are called **inotropic effects**

Only affect myocardium in atria

Negative inotropic effects:
(decrease contractility)

- Under parasympathetic control

- ACh decreases inward Ca²⁺ current during plateau
- ACh increases outward K⁺ current (shorten plateau phase)

Both ↓ Ca²⁺ entering cell and thus the amount of Ca²⁺ available for tension development

Marié & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.12

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Changes in heart rate also produce changes in cardiac contractility

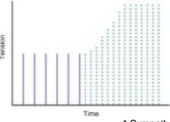
Example:
Increase in heart rate = Increase in cardiac contractility

- ↑ heart rate = ↑ APs per unit time = ↑ total amount of Ca²⁺ entering cell per unit time

AND

- ↑ Ca²⁺ entering cell per unit time = ↑ accumulation of Ca²⁺ in SR for future release

Positive staircase effect
As heart rate increases, the tension developed on each beat increases stepwise to a maximal value



* Sympathetic input will enhance response

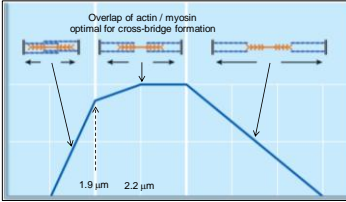
Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.19

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

The maximum tension that can be developed by a myocardial cell depends on its resting length (similar to skeletal muscle)

Sarcomere length of ~ 2.2 μm = L_{max} for cardiac muscle



Myocardium cells maintain a working length of ~ 1.9 μm

Additional Length-dependent Mechanisms:

- Increasing muscle length increases Ca²⁺-sensitivity of troponin C
- Increasing muscle length increases Ca²⁺ release from SR

Marié & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 9.22

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Systole = Contraction of heart
Diastole = Relaxation of heart

Ventricular function is described by several parameters:

- Cardiac Output:** Total volume of blood ejected by each ventricle per unit time (usually one minute)


Cardiac output = Heart rate x Stroke volume
(ml / min) (beats / min) (ml / beat)

- Stroke Volume:** Volume of blood ejected by each ventricle per heart beat

Stroke volume = End diastolic volume - End systolic volume
(ml) (ml) (ml)

- Ejection Fraction:** Fraction of the end diastolic volume ejected in each stroke volume

Ejection fraction = $\frac{\text{Stroke volume (ml)}}{\text{End diastolic volume (ml)}}$



Heart rate = 75 beats / min
End diastolic volume = 140 ml
End systolic volume = 70 ml

Calculate:

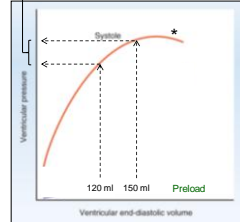
Stroke volume: 70 ml
Ejection fraction: 0.50
Cardiac output: 5250 ml / min

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Frank-Starling Law of the Heart:
The volume of blood ejected by the ventricle depends on the volume present in the ventricle at the end of diastole

Stronger tension generated



Optimal overlap = optimal tension

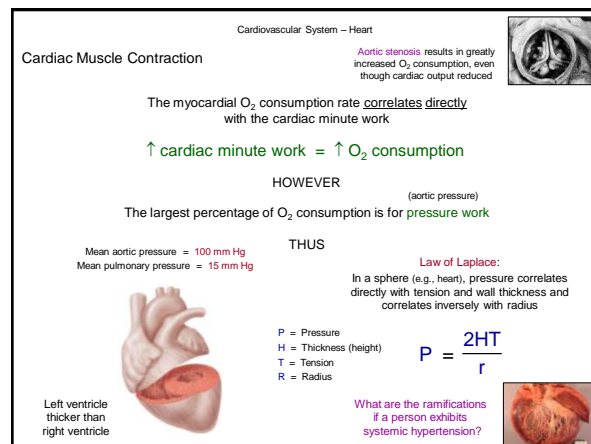
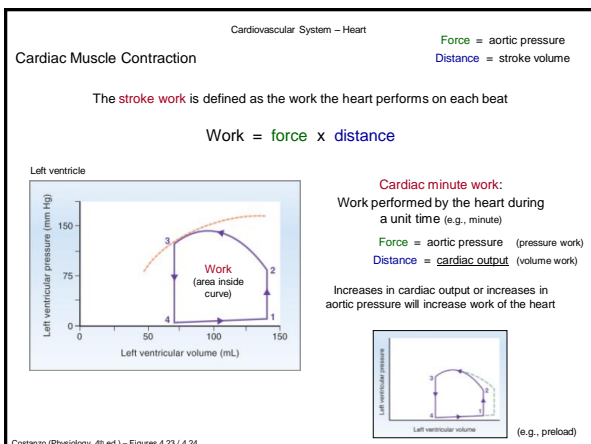
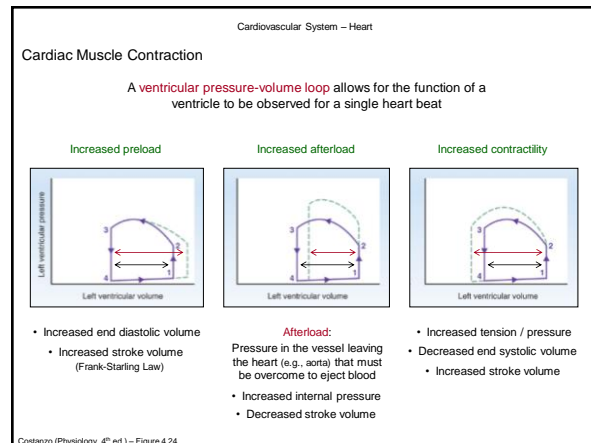
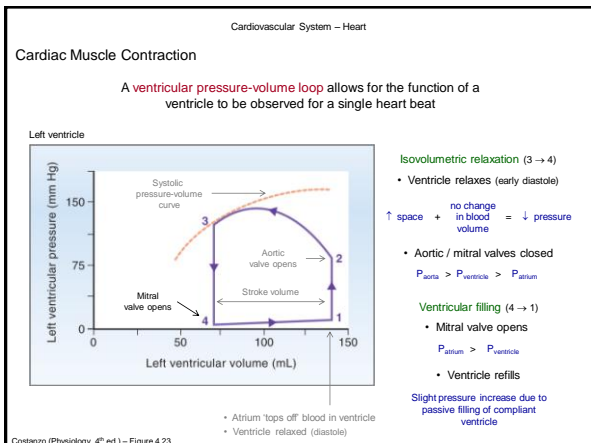
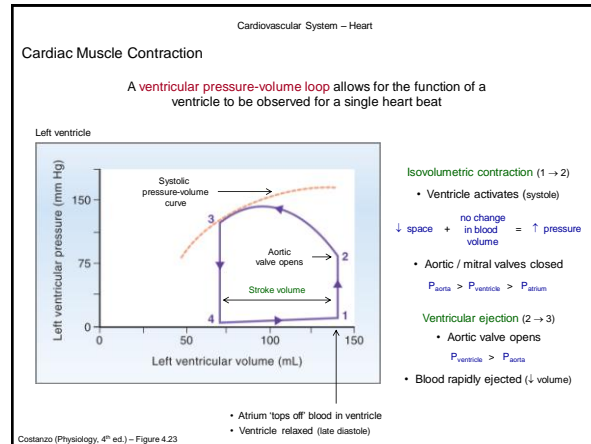
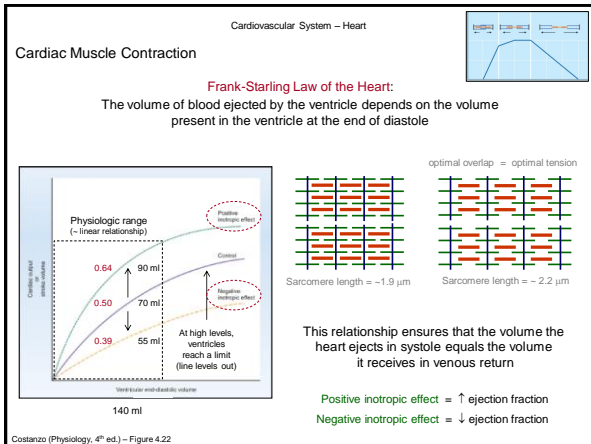
Sarcomere length = ~ 1.9 μm Sarcomere length = ~ 2.2 μm

Preload:
The resting length from which cardiac muscle contracts

The more blood that collects in the ventricle, the more the cardiac cells are stretched

* Cardiac muscle normally 'held' on the ascending limb of the length-tension curve, much 'stiffer' than skeletal muscle

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.21



Cardiovascular System – Heart

Cardiac Muscle Contraction

Recall:
Cardiac output equals the total volume of blood ejected by a ventricle per unit time

The cardiac output can also be measured using the **Fick principle** (conservation of mass)

All measurable quantities → In the steady state, the rate of O₂ consumed by the body must equal the amount of O₂ leaving the lungs (pulmonary veins) minus the amount of O₂ returning to the lungs (pulmonary artery)


$$O_2 \text{ consumption} = \underbrace{CO_{\text{left ventricle}}}_{\text{equal}} \times [O_2]_{\text{pulmonary vein}} - \underbrace{CO_{\text{right ventricle}}}_{\text{equal}} \times [O_2]_{\text{pulmonary artery}}$$

Solve for cardiac output:

$$\text{Cardiac Output} = \frac{O_2 \text{ consumption}}{[O_2]_{\text{pulmonary vein}} - [O_2]_{\text{pulmonary artery}}}$$

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Fick principle also applicable to measuring blood flow to individual organs



A man has a resting O₂ consumption of 250 mL O₂ / min, a femoral arterial O₂ content of 0.20 mL O₂ / mL blood, and a pulmonary arterial O₂ content of 0.15 mL O₂ / mL blood.

What is his cardiac output?

$$\text{Cardiac Output} = \frac{O_2 \text{ consumption}}{[O_2]_{\text{pulmonary vein}} - [O_2]_{\text{pulmonary artery}}}$$

$$\text{Cardiac Output} = \frac{250 \text{ mL O}_2 / \text{min}}{0.20 \text{ mL O}_2 / \text{mL blood} - 0.15 \text{ mL O}_2 / \text{mL blood}}$$

$$\text{Cardiac Output} = 5000 \text{ mL / min}$$

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Mechanical / Electrical Overview:

Cardiac Cycle: Mechanical and electrical events during single heart beat

Phases of the cardiac cycle:

Atrial Systole: (A)

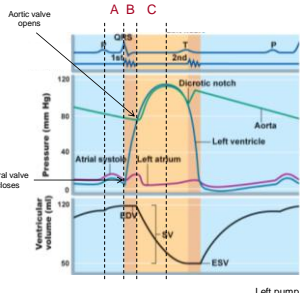
- Preceded by P wave on ECG
- Increased tension in left atrium
- Ventricular volume / pressure increases

Isovolumetric Ventricular Contraction: (B)

- Begins during QRS wave on ECG
- Ventricular pressure increases (systole)
- Mitral valve closes (1st heart sound – ‘Lub’)
- NO VOLUME CHANGE

Rapid Ventricular Ejection: (C)

- Aortic valve opens (P_{ventricle} > P_{aorta})
- Majority of stroke volume ejected
- Aorta pressure increases
- Atrial filling begins



Left pump

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.20

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Mechanical / Electrical Overview:

Cardiac Cycle: Mechanical and electrical events during single heart beat

Phases of the cardiac cycle:

Reduced Ventricular Ejection: (D)

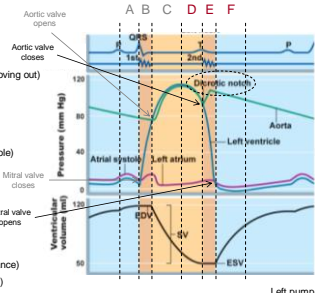
- Ventricles begin to repolarize (start of T wave)
- Ventricular / atrial pressure falls (blood still moving out)
- Atrium continues to fill (pressure rising)

Isovolumic Ventricular Relaxation: (E)

- Ventricles fully repolarize (T wave complete)
- Left ventricular pressure drops rapidly (diastole)
- Aortic valve closes (2nd heart sound – ‘Dub’)
- NO VOLUME CHANGE

Rapid Ventricular Filling: (F)

- Mitral valve opens (P_{atrium} > P_{ventricle})
- Ventricular volume increases rapidly
- Little change in ventricular pressure (compliance)
- Aortic pressure decreases (blood carried away)



Left pump

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.20

Cardiovascular System – Heart

Mechanical / Electrical Overview:

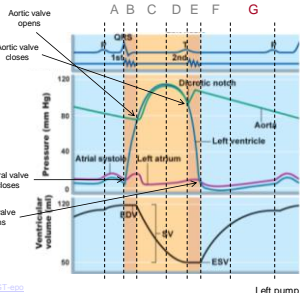
Cardiac Cycle: Mechanical and electrical events during single heart beat

Phases of the cardiac cycle:

Reduced Ventricular filling: (G)

- Longest phase of cardiac cycle
- Final portion of ventricular filling

Increase in heart rate reduces G phase interval; if heart rate too high, ventricular filling compromised



Left pump

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=em8b0e0e&list=PL1v33wCT-2p>

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8th ed.) – Figure 18.20