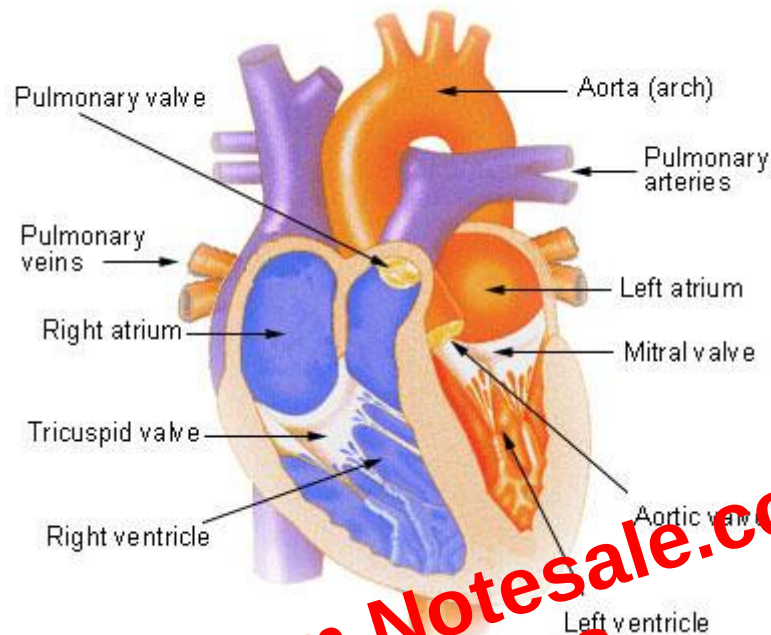


Structure of the Heart

The human [heart](#) is a four-chambered muscular [organ](#), shaped and sized roughly like a man's closed fist with two-thirds of the [mass](#) to the left of midline.

The heart is enclosed in a [pericardial sac](#) that is lined with the [parietal](#) layers of a [serous membrane](#). The [visceral](#) layer of the serous membrane forms the [epicardium](#).

Internal View of the Heart



Layers of the Heart Wall

Three layers of [tissue](#) form the heart wall. The outer layer of the heart wall is the [epicardium](#), the middle layer is the [myocardium](#), and the inner layer is the [endocardium](#).

Chambers of the Heart

The [internal cavity](#) of the heart is divided into four chambers:

- Right atrium
- Right ventricle
- Left atrium
- Left ventricle

The two [atria](#) are thin-walled chambers that receive [blood](#) from the [veins](#). The two ventricles are thick-walled chambers that forcefully [pump](#) blood out of the heart. Differences in thickness of the heart chamber walls are due to variations in the amount of myocardium present, which reflects the amount of force each chamber is required to generate.