

Normal Heart and Blood Flow

The normal heart is divided into 4 chambers:

- right atrium
- left atrium
- right ventricle
- left ventricle

The chambers on the right side of the heart receive blood from the veins ("blue" blood). The chambers on the left side pump oxygen-rich ("red") blood out of the heart to the rest of the body.

Four valves act as one-way doors to direct blood flow:

- aortic valve
- mitral valve
- pulmonary valve
- tricuspid valve

A wall (septum) divides the right and left side of the heart.

