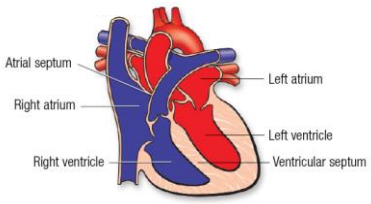
The Heart and Normal Blood Flow

A normal heart is a strong pump about the size of a fist. Heart muscles work hard to bring oxygen-rich blood to different parts of your body. Many individuals with 22q are born with congenital heart defects, typically **conotruncal heart defects** involving the **cardiac outflow tract** and the **aortic arch**, which may require surgical treatment and/or long-term monitoring. To understand these heart defects, let's first find out what a normal heart looks like and how the blood typically flows.

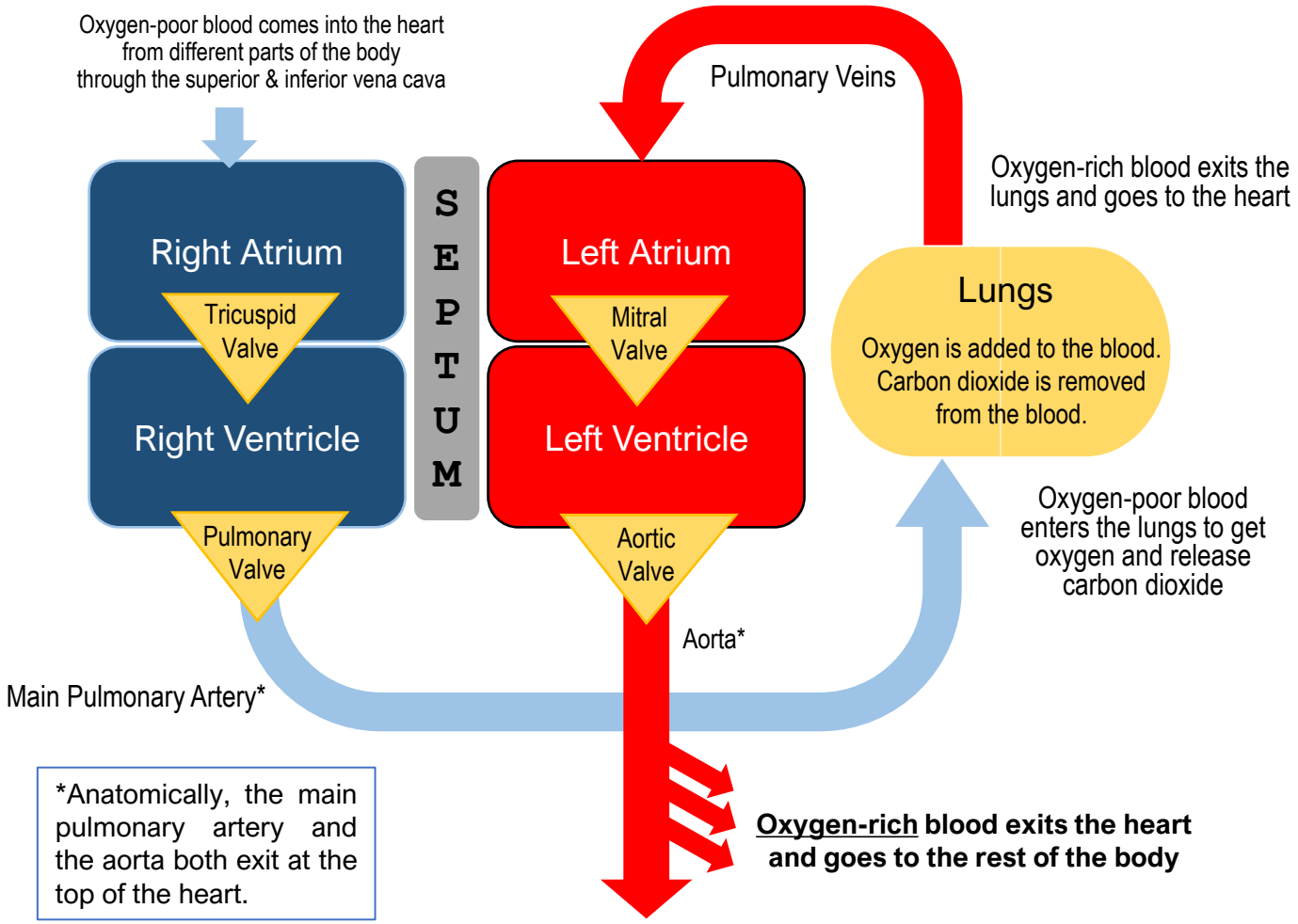
As seen in the schematic diagram below, **oxygen-poor blood (bluish)** arrives at the **right** chambers of the heart before being pumped to the lungs to get oxygen and release carbon dioxide. **Oxygen-rich blood (red)** goes from the lungs to the **left** chambers of the heart, where it is pumped to the rest of the body.



Please click on the image to see a larger version on the website of the American Heart Association

A Schematic Diagram of the Heart and Normal Blood Flow

Shown as if you are facing the patient; Not to scale



For more info, please visit the websites of the CDC or the American Heart Association.

22q International 22q11.2 Foundation

The mission of the International 22q11.2 Foundation is to improve the quality of life for individuals affected by chromosome 22q11.2 differences through family and professional partnerships.
This information is brought to you by the Foundation for educational purposes only. It is not intended to be taken as medical advice. If you have concerns, please talk to your healthcare provider.

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