

# ANATOMY 5

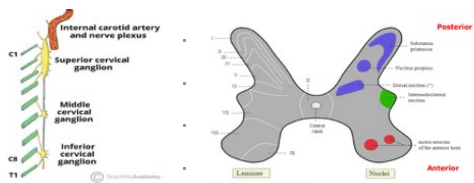
## Heart Innervation and surface anatomy

- The heart is supplied by autonomic nervous system through cardiac plexus
- The cardiac plexus is divided into superficial and deep parts. The cardiac plexus is located on the anterior surface of the bifurcation of the trachea.
- It is formed of both sympathetic and parasympathetic fibers as well as visceral afferent fibers



### The sympathetic supply

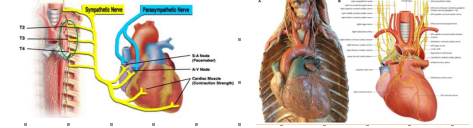
- Ø Preganglionic fibers from cell bodies in the intermediolateral cell columns (IMLs) of the superior five or six thoracic segments of the spinal cord
- Ø Preganglionic fibers relay at cervical and superior thoracic ganglia of the sympathetic trunks.
- Ø Postganglionic fibers traverse cardio pulmonary splanchnic nerves and the cardiac plexus to end in the SA and AV nodes
- Ø Sympathetic stimulation causes increased heart rate, impulse conduction, force of contraction and increased blood flow through the coronary vessels to support the increased activity.



Most adrenergic receptors on coronary blood vessels are  $\beta_2$ -receptors, which, when activated, cause relaxation (or perhaps inhibition) of vascular smooth muscle and, therefore, dilation of the arteries (Wilson-Pauwels et al., 1997). This supplies more oxygen and nutrients to the myocardium during periods of increased activity

### The parasympathetic supply

- o Preganglionic fibers from the vagus nerves relay in cardiac plexus and nerve cells in atrial wall and interatrial septum near the SA and AV nodes and along the coronary arteries
- o Parasympathetic stimulation slows the heart rate, reduces the force of the contraction, and constricts the coronary arteries, saving energy between periods of increased demand.

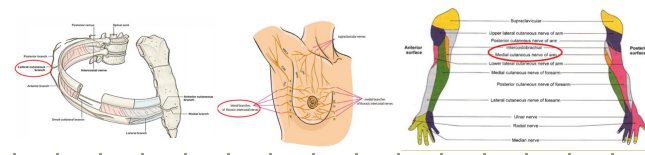


### Cardiac Pain

- o The nature of the pain varies, from a mild discomfort to a severe crushing pain
- o The heart is insensitive to touch, cutting, cold, and heat; however, ischemia and the accumulation of metabolic products stimulate pain endings in the myocardium

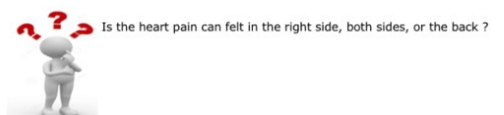
- The afferent pain fibers run with thoracic cardiac branches of the sympathetic trunk.
- These sensory fibers enter the spinal cord through the posterior roots of the upper four thoracic nerves (T1-T4)
- The pain is not felt in the heart, but is referred to the skin areas supplied by the upper four thoracic nerves
- The skin areas supplied by the upper four intercostal nerves and by the intercostobrachial nerve (T2) are therefore affected.
- The intercostobrachial nerve communicates with the medial cutaneous nerve of the arm and is distributed to skin on the medial side of the upper part of the arm
- Pain felt on the left side of chest, left side of neck, left shoulder and medial side of left arm

**Intercostobrachial nerve is the lateral cutaneous branch of the second intercostal nerve**

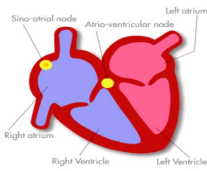
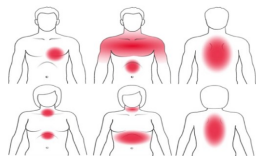
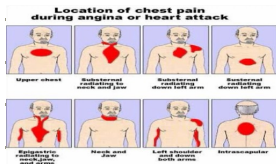


- Myocardial infarction involving the inferior wall or diaphragmatic surface of the heart often gives rise to discomfort in the epigastrium.
- The afferent pain fibers run with the sympathetic nerves and enter the spinal cord in the posterior roots of T7, T8, and T9
- This gives a referred pain to epigastric region

**RESPECT ANY EPIGASTRIC PAIN ESPECIALLY IN HIGH RISK PATIENT**



Synaptic contacts may also be made with connector neurons, which conduct impulses to neurons on the right side of comparable areas of the spinal cord.



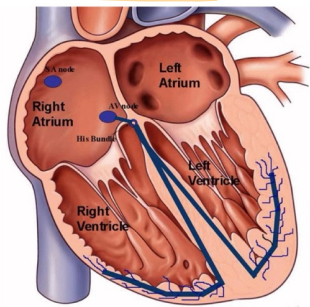
## The conducting system of the heart

- It is formed of modified myocardial fibers called Purkinje fibers that are responsible for initiation, conduction and maintenance of cardiac muscle
- Atria contract first and together, to be followed later by the contractions of both ventricles together
- The slight delay in the passage of the impulse from the atria to the ventricles allows time for the atria to empty their blood into the ventricles before the ventricles contract.

It consists of:

① SA

- Is the pacemaker of the heart
- It initiates and regulates the impulses of the heart contractions
- It is an ellipsoid band of modified myocardial fibers and associated fibroelastic connective tissue
- It extends from the anterolateral aspect of the opening of the superior vena cava into the upper part of the crista terminalis



## Internodal conduction tracts:

These are fine bundles of modified myocardial fibers connecting the sinoatrial (S.A.) node with the atrioventricular (A.V.) node. They are arranged as follows:

### I. Anterior internodal tract:

It arises from the **upper end** of the S.A. node and passes in front of the superior vena cava opening and it divides into two bundles:

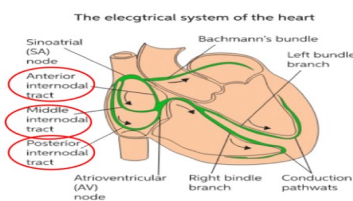
- A bundle penetrating the interatrial septum to reach the wall of the left atrium and is called **Bachmann's bundle**.
- B. The other bundle descends on the right side of the interatrial septum to reach A.V. node

### B. Middle internodal tract

It arises from the **postero superior** aspect of the S.A. node and curves **posteriorly** behind the orifice of the Superior vena cava to reach the A.V. node

### C. Posterior internodal tract

It arises from the **postero inferior** aspect of the S.A. node and descends through the crista terminalis and the valve of inferior vena cava to reach A.V. node



② AV

- It is a collection of nodal tissue but it is smaller than the SA node
- Ø It lies on the right side of the lower part of the interatrial septum just above the septal leaflet of the tricuspid valve close to the opening of the coronary sinus
- Ø Its anatomical landmarks are the boundaries of the triangle of Koch
- Ø It receives the impulse from the SA node through internodal tract and distributes the signal to the ventricles through the AV bundle (of His)



## ③ Atrioventricular bundle

- Is a short bundle of modified myocardial fibers which begins from A.V. node and passes through fibrous skeleton of heart along membranous part of the interventricular septum
- It divides into right and left bundles at the junction of the membranous and muscular parts of the IVS
- These branches proceed on each side of the muscular IVS deep to the endocardium and then ramify into subendocardial branches (Purkinje fibers) which extend into the walls of the respective ventricles.

### A. The right bundle

It stimulates the muscle of the IVS, the anterior papillary muscle through the septomarginal trabecula (moderator band), and the wall of the right ventricle.

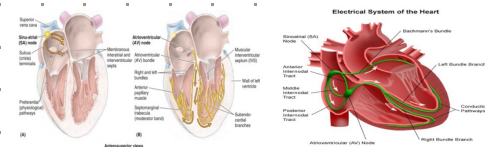
### B. The left bundle

It divides near its origin into approximately six smaller tracts, which give rise to subendocardial branches that stimulate the IVS, the anterior and posterior papillary muscles, and the wall of the left ventricle

In ventricular septal defect (VSD) cases, the AV bundle usually lies in the margin of the VSD.

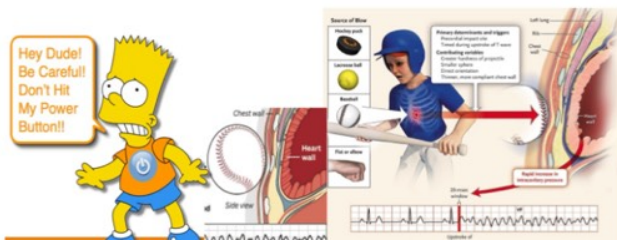
Obviously, this vital part of the conducting system must be preserved during surgical repair of the defect.

Destruction of the AV bundle would cut the only physiological link between the atrial and ventricular musculature, also producing a heart block



## Comotio Cordis

This condition results in ventricular fibrillation and sudden death. It is caused by a blunt non penetrating blow to the anterior chest wall over the heart. It occurs most commonly in the young and adolescents and is often sports-related.

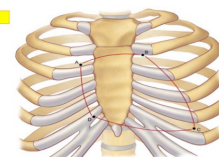


## ④ Right, left terminal branch

### Surface Anatomy

- **Point A:** Upper border of right 3rd costal cartilage (1 inch) from midline.
- **Point B:** Lower border of left 2nd costal cartilage (1.5 inch) from midline.
- **Point C (apex):** in the left 5th intercostal space (3.5 inches) from midline.
- **Point D:** on the right 6th costal cartilage (1/2 inch) from midline.

$$2+3=5$$



$$0.5+1+1.5=3$$

$$+0.5=3.5$$

1. Upper border of right 3rd costal cartilage  
2. Lower border of left 2nd costal cartilage  
3. Apex of heart (5th intercostal space)  
4. Lower border of right 6th costal cartilage

## Heart Auscultation

1. **Pulmonary valve:** left 2nd sternocostal junction.
2. **Aortic valve:** right 2nd sternocostal junction.
3. **Mitral valve:** apex of the heart.
4. **Tricuspid valve:** xiphisternal joint.

