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Anatomy and Pathology Reflection #2

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The heart valves have an important purpose of keeping the blood flowing the correct direction through each chamber of the heart, and into the lungs or body without back flow. The heart is made up of four heart valves. The tricuspid valve and pulmonary valve are on the right side of the heart. The bicuspid valve and aortic valve are on the left side of the heart. They have a huge role with the heart. They open to let blood move forward with each heart beat, then close tightly to prevent blood backflow. They are always ensuring one-way circulation, which is very important for efficient oxygen delivery.

The right and left side of the heart have 2 very different circulations. The right side of the heart uses the pulmonary artery to pump deoxygenated blood from the body to the lungs. Once it is in the lungs the blood picks up oxygen and releases the carbon dioxide. This is the pulmonary circulation. The right atrium of the heart takes the body from the blood and the right ventricle then sends the blood to the lungs. Creating oxygen-rich blood.

Systemic circulation is created by the left side of the heart. It takes the oxygenated blood from the pulmonary veins (on the right side). It first stops at the left atrium of the heart which passes it to the left ventricle. The left ventricle then pumps the oxygen-rich blood out through the aorta to the entire body. The left and right side of the heart ensure they are in sync and work together well so that the rest of the body functions properly.