ANPH 202 Anatomy and Pathology 1 Reflection #2

Reflection: Heart Anatomy



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1 What is the function of the right AV valve (atrioventricular valve or tricuspid valve)?

- The human heart relies on valves to ensure that blood flows in the correct direction without backflow. Two of the most important valves are the right atrioventricular (AV) valve, also known as the tricuspid valve, and the left AV valve, also known as the mitral valve. Both play a critical role in maintaining efficient circulation and preventing blood from moving backwards.
- The right AV valve (tricuspid valve) is located between the right atrium and the right ventricle. Its function is to allow deoxygenated blood returning from the body to pass from the right atrium into the right ventricle during relaxation of the heart. Once the ventricle contracts, the valve closes tightly, preventing blood from flowing back into the atrium. This ensures that the blood is pumped forward into the pulmonary arteries and directed toward the lungs for oxygenation. Without this one-way mechanism, circulation would be inefficient, and pressure in the right atrium could build up, leading to complications.



2. What is the function of the left AV valve (atrioventricular valve or mitral valve)?

The left AV valve (mitral valve) lies between the left atrium and left ventricle. Its main role is to let oxygenated blood from the lungs flow from the left atrium into the left ventricle. When the ventricle contracts, the valve shuts firmly, preventing the blood from leaking back into the atrium. Instead, the blood is pushed into the aorta and delivered throughout the body. The mitral valve is especially important because it handles high-pressure blood flow from the left ventricle, which is the heart's strongest chamber.

For medical imaging professionals, understanding these valves is essential. When performing echocardiograms, CT scans, or MRIs, the ability to identify whether valves are functioning properly helps support accurate diagnosis. Conditions like valve regurgitation or stenosis can often be detected through imaging, and recognizing abnormal blood flow patterns requires a solid knowledge of their normal function.

In reflection, the tricuspid and mitral valves are not only simple structures but also vital guardians of the circulatory system. Their proper function ensures that blood moves forward efficiently, allowing the heart to sustain life with each beat.

As a future medical imaging technologist, understanding these valves helps me connect anatomy with practice and contribute meaningfully to patient care.




Thank You