

### Cardiac Muscle

#### Structure 1

- 1) striated
- 2) thin filaments have tropomyosin (belt) and troponin (3 spheres)
- 3) contains an abundance of mitochondria and myoglobin
- 4) possess T-tubules and sarcoplasmic reticulum
- 5)  $Ca^{++}$  enters the cytosol from voltage-gated  $Ca^{++}$  channels (small amount) in the plasma membrane and triggers internal release of  $Ca^{++}$

#### AP in contractile cardiac muscle cells (P 1)

- 1) AP in cardiac contractile cells differs considerably from the AP in cardiac autorhythmic cells
- 2) -90mV resting potential
- 3) rapid rising phase of AP result of  $Na^{+}$  entry on opening of fast  $Na^{+}$  channels at threshold (-70mV)
- 4) Brief repolarization after potential reaches its peak bc of limited  $K^{+}$  efflux on opening of transient  $K^{+}$  channels, coupled w/ inactivation of  $Na^{+}$  channels

### Anatomy of the heart

- dual-pump system includes 4 chambers:
- left and right Atria, Ventricles
  - chambers on right pump = oxygen-poor blood through pulmonary circulation -> lungs
  - chambers on left pump = oxygen-rich blood through systemic circulation -> body tissues

#### Path of the blood (based on valves)

- 1) right AV valve/tricuspid (r.a.->r.v)
- 2) pulmonary/semilunar valve (r.v.->pulmonary artery)
- 3) left AV valve/bicuspid/mitral (l.a.->l.v.)
- 4) aortic/semilunar valve (l.v.->aorta)

### Purkinje Fibers

- small terminal fibers of specialized, cardiac pacemaker cells that extend from

### Affect of Pressure on Valve

Structure of Heart Valve = ensure a one-way flow of blood (no backflow)

- When pressure is greater behind the valve, it opens
- When pressure is greater in front of the valve, it closes

### Heart Walls

Endocardium: thin layer of endothelial tissue lining the interior of each chamber

Myocardium: middle layer of heart wall, composed of cardiac muscle

- cardiac muscle cells are connected end-to-end by intercalated disks (formed desmosomes and gap-junctions)

Epicardium: thin external membrane covering the heart and is filled with a small volume of pericardial fluid

### Excitation-Contraction Coupling

- mechanism of  $Ca^{++}$  entry into the cytosol is different from that in skeletal muscle cells

- T-tubule membranes have dihydropyridine receptors (voltage-gated  $Ca^{++}$  channels). open and allow  $Ca^{++}$  to flow into cytosol

- $Ca^{++}$  entry triggers further release of  $Ca^{++}$  from sarcoplasmic reticulum. these 2 sources of  $Ca^{++}$  activate power stroke of contraction

- # of activated crossbridges is proportional to the cytosolic  $Ca^{++}$  conc.

### Cardiac Muscle

#### Structure 2

- 6) it displays pacemaker activity initiating its own action potential
- 7) connected by gap junctions
- 8) innervated by autonomic neuronal fibers
- 9) action potentials are longer in duration than both smooth and skeletal muscle

### Pacemaker Activity

99% of cardiac muscle cells are contractile and don't initiate their own action potentials

1% are autorhythmic and intrinsically initiate their own action potentials at a regular frequency

### Myocardium

- intercalated discs

- 1) desmosomes = mechanically hold cells together

- 2) gap-junctions = provide paths of low resistance to the flow of electrical current between muscle cells

- gap-junctions enable the cardiac muscle to form a functional syncytium (a group of cells that act as a single functional unit despite maintaining their individual identities)

### Valves of the Heart

□

Right Atrium - Receives oxygen-poor blood from systemic venous circulation (inferior and superior vena cava veins)

- pumps blood into the right ventricle through the right atrioventricular (AV) (tricuspid valve)

Right Ventricle - receives oxygen-poor blood from right atrium and pumps blood through the pulmonary (semilunar) valve into the pulmonary artery

### Picture of the heart

Bundle of His and spread throughout the ventricular myocardium

- 30 A.P./min
- In normal conditiona, follow SA node (and AV node) at 70 AP/min

## Nodes

### Sinoatrial (SA) Node:

- right atrium near the opening of the superior vena cava
- exhibits an autorhythmicity of 70 action potentials per min and leads the activity of the other pacemaker structures int he heart

### Atrioventricular (AV) Node:

- Cardiac pacemaker cells located at the base of the right atrium
- exhibits an autorhythmicity of 50 action potentials per min
- Under normal conditions, this node follows faster SA node at 70 A.P./min

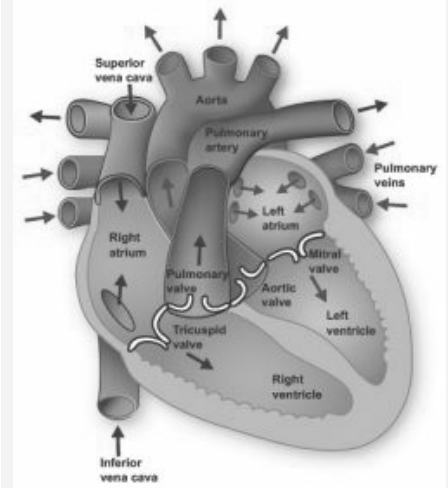
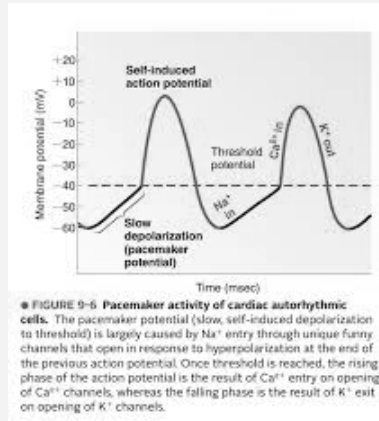
- longer duration to prevent fatigue but requires a lot of energy

## Interatrial Pathway

cardiac cells that conducts pacemaker activity from the right atrium to the left atrium

- from SA node to AV node

## Pacemaker activity of cardiac autorhythmic cells



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By keitapotato

[cheatography.com/keitapotato/](https://cheatography.com/keitapotato/)

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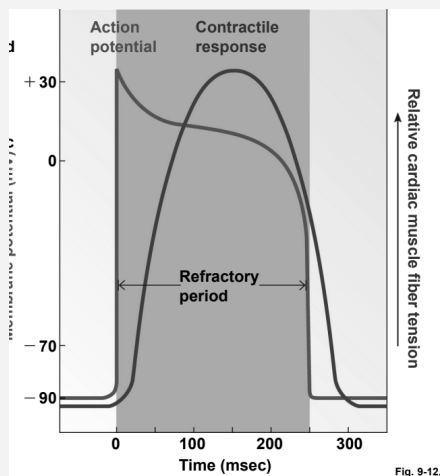
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## Relationship of AP and Refractory Period



## Electrical Activity of the Heart

- heart muscle generates its own rhythmic electrical activity (autorhythmicity)
- occurs due to pacemaker activity
- nodes: pacemaker cells grouped together in specialized regions
- 2 nodes
- control rate and coordination of cardiac contractions

## Connective Tissue

- separates atria from ventricles and provides a rigid base for attachment of heart valves and cardiac muscle
- a ring of dense fibrous connective tissue surrounds each of the valves of the heart

## Valves of the Heart

- Left Atrium - receives oxygen-rich blood from left and right pulmonary veins
- pumps blood through the left atrioventricular (AV) (bicuspid or mitral) valve into the left ventricle
- Left Ventricle - Receives oxygen-rich blood from left atrium and pumps blood through aortic (semilunar) valve into the aorta

## Nodes

### Sinoatrial (SA) Node:

- wall of the right atrium near opening of superior vena cava

## bundle of his

tract of specialized, cardiac pacemaker cells that originate at the AV node and divides and projects into the left and right ventricles

## AV Nodal Delay

- PA conducted relatively slowly through the AV node resulting in a delay of approx. 100ms
- to ensure that ventricles contract after atrial contraction

## System Overview

Circulatory systems include:

- 1) heart (pump)
- 2) blood vessels (pipes)
- 3) blood (fluid)

This system function is impacted by nervous system and kidneys (endocrine system)

Functions:

- supply oxygen and nutrients
- remove "wastes"
- temperature regulation
- distribute hormones
- immuno-vigilance

## Definition

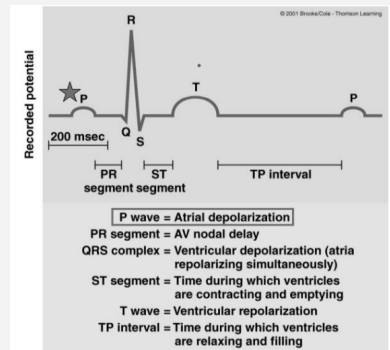
found only in the heart and shares characteristics of both skeletal and smooth muscle

## AP contractile cardiac muscle cells 2

- 1) Prolonged plateau phase is result of slow  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry on opening of  $\text{L-type Ca}^{2+}$  channels, coupled w/ reduced  $\text{K}^{+}$  efflux on closure of several types of  $\text{K}^{+}$  channels
- 2) rapid falling phase is result of  $\text{K}^{+}$  efflux on opening of ordinary voltage-gated  $\text{K}^{+}$  channels, as in other excitable cells
- 3) Resting potential is maintained by opening of leaky  $\text{K}^{+}$  channels

## Picture of AP in cardiac cell

## Electrocardiogram (ECG)



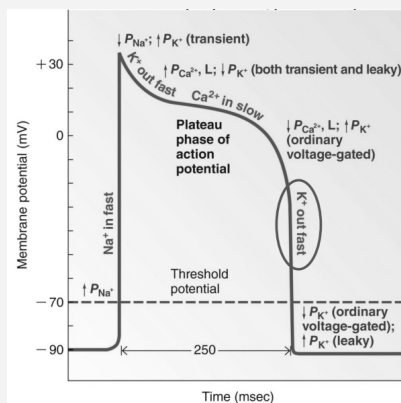
- electrical currents generated by coordinated action potentials of the heart muscle can reach the surface of the body and detected as voltage differences between 2 points on the body surface

- can detect disturbances in heart function

- 70 action potentials per min

Atrioventricular (AV) Node:

- base of right atrium
- exhibits an autorhythmicity of 50 action potentials per min
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