

THE HEART'S ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

The atria and ventricles work together, alternately contracting and relaxing to pump blood through the heart. The electrical system of the heart is the power source that makes this possible.

Sinoatrial (SA) Node

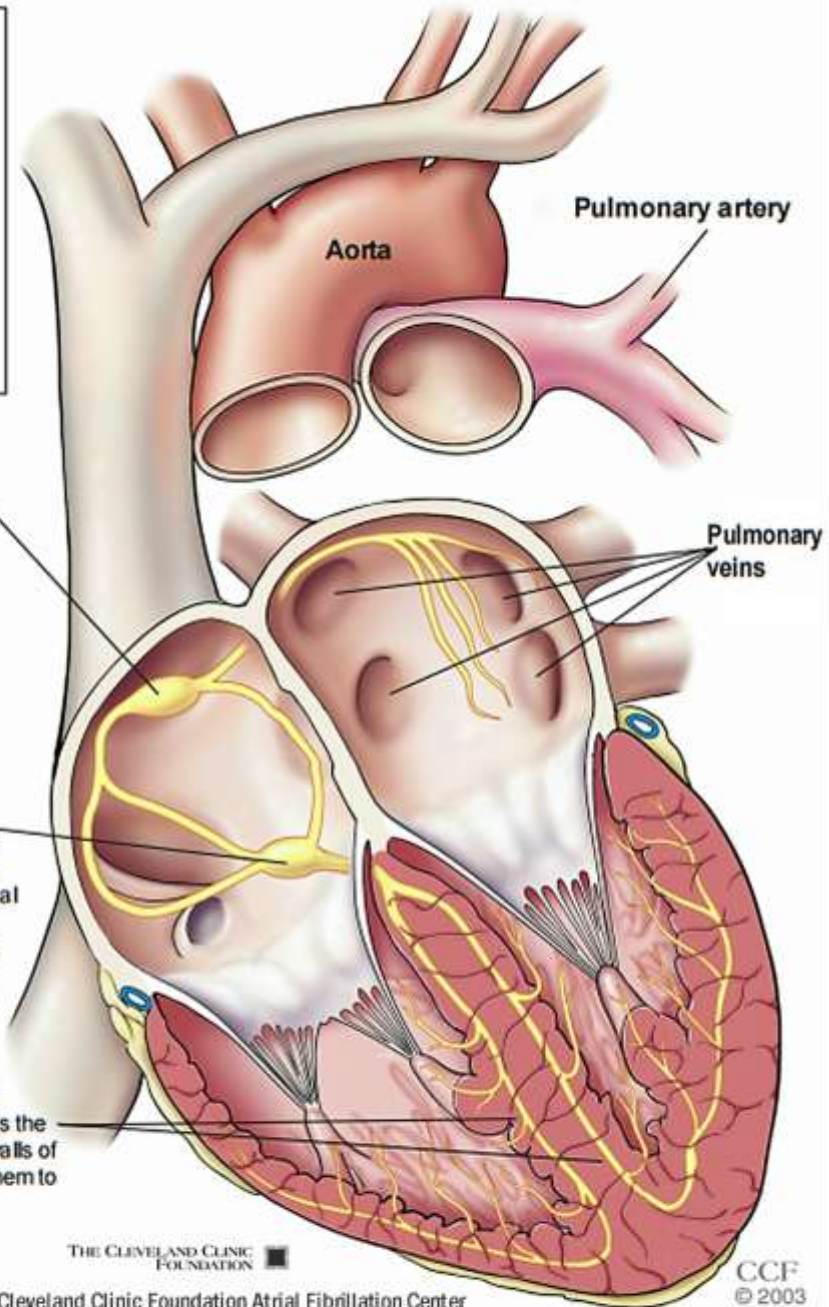
The electrical impulse begins at the SA node, located in the right atrium. The electrical activity spreads through the walls of the atria and causes them to contract.

AV Node

The AV node is located between the atria and ventricles and acts like a gate that slows the electrical signal before it enters the ventricles. This delay gives the atria time to contract before the ventricles do.

His-Purkinje Network

This pathway of fibers sends the impulse into the muscular walls of the ventricles and causes them to contract.



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