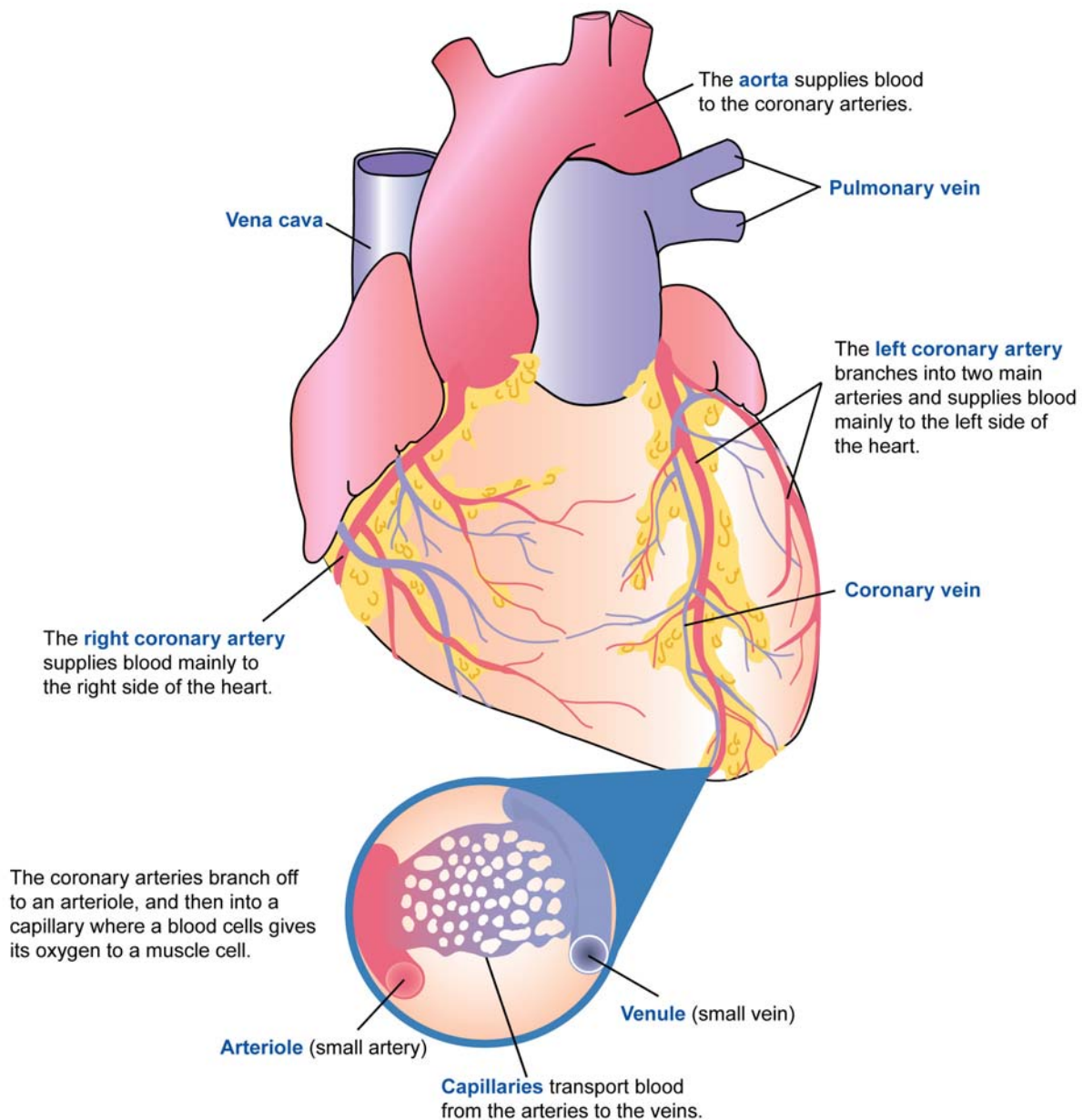


Vascular System of the Heart



A blood cell's journey: The blood cell moves from the right atrium into the right ventricle and then into the lungs, where it absorbs oxygen. It travels through the pulmonary vein to the left atrium, then on to the left ventricle and out the aorta. It moves to a coronary artery, branches off to an arteriole, and finally through a capillary, where it gives oxygen to a muscle cell and absorbs carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the muscle cell. The blood cell returns to the right atrium where it is pumped into the lungs to give off the CO₂ and absorb more oxygen.