

Pre-natal Circulation

Oxygenated/deoxygenated blood comes from the placenta and travels to the heart through the _____ and mixes with *oxygenated/deoxygenated* blood returning from the _____. Blood then enters the _____ of the heart.

Because the fetal lungs are not functional, most blood will bypass the _____, and be shunted to the _____ via the _____. This is due to pressure in the right atrium being *higher/lower* than pressure in the left atrium. Blood will then travel into the _____ and be pumped out through the _____ for *systemic/pulmonary* circulation.

Some blood will enter the _____ from the right atrium and proceed into the _____. However, most of this blood will be shunted away from the _____ and into the _____ via the _____.

Post-Natal Circulation

Changes due to *increased/decreased* alveolar pressure in the lungs lead to anatomical and physiological alterations in the circulatory system.

With the first breath, increased alveolar O₂ pressure causes _____ in the pulmonary vessels. Within 10-15 hours after birth (but can be up to 72 hours), the _____ constricts, becoming the _____.

Decreased/Increased left atrial pressure and *decreased/increased* right atrial pressure cause the _____ to close. Because of this closure, blood will now flow from the _____ to the _____.

Pre-natal Circulation

Oxygenated/deoxygenated blood comes from the placenta and travels to the heart through the inferior vena cava and mixes with *oxygenated/deoxygenated* blood returning from the superior vena cava. Blood then enters the right atrium of the heart.

Because the fetal lungs are not functional, most blood will bypass the pulmonary trunk, and be shunted to the left atrium via the foramen ovale. This is due to pressure in the right atrium being *higher/lower* than pressure in the left atrium. Blood will then travel into the left ventricle and be pumped out through the aorta for *systemic/pulmonary* circulation.

Some blood will enter the right ventricle from the right atrium and proceed into the pulmonary trunk. However, most of this blood will be shunted away from the pulmonary circulation and into the aorta via the ductus arteriosus.

Post-Natal Circulation

Changes due to *increased/decreased* alveolar pressure in the lungs lead to anatomical and physiological alterations in the circulatory system. With the first breath, increased alveolar O₂ pressure causes vasodilation in the pulmonary vessels. Within 10-15 hours after birth (but can be up to 72 hours), the ductus arteriosus constricts and becomes the ligamentum arteriosum.

Decreased/Increased left atrial pressure and *decreased/increased* right atrial pressure cause the foramen ovale to close. Because of this closure, blood will now flow from the right atrium to the right ventricle.

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