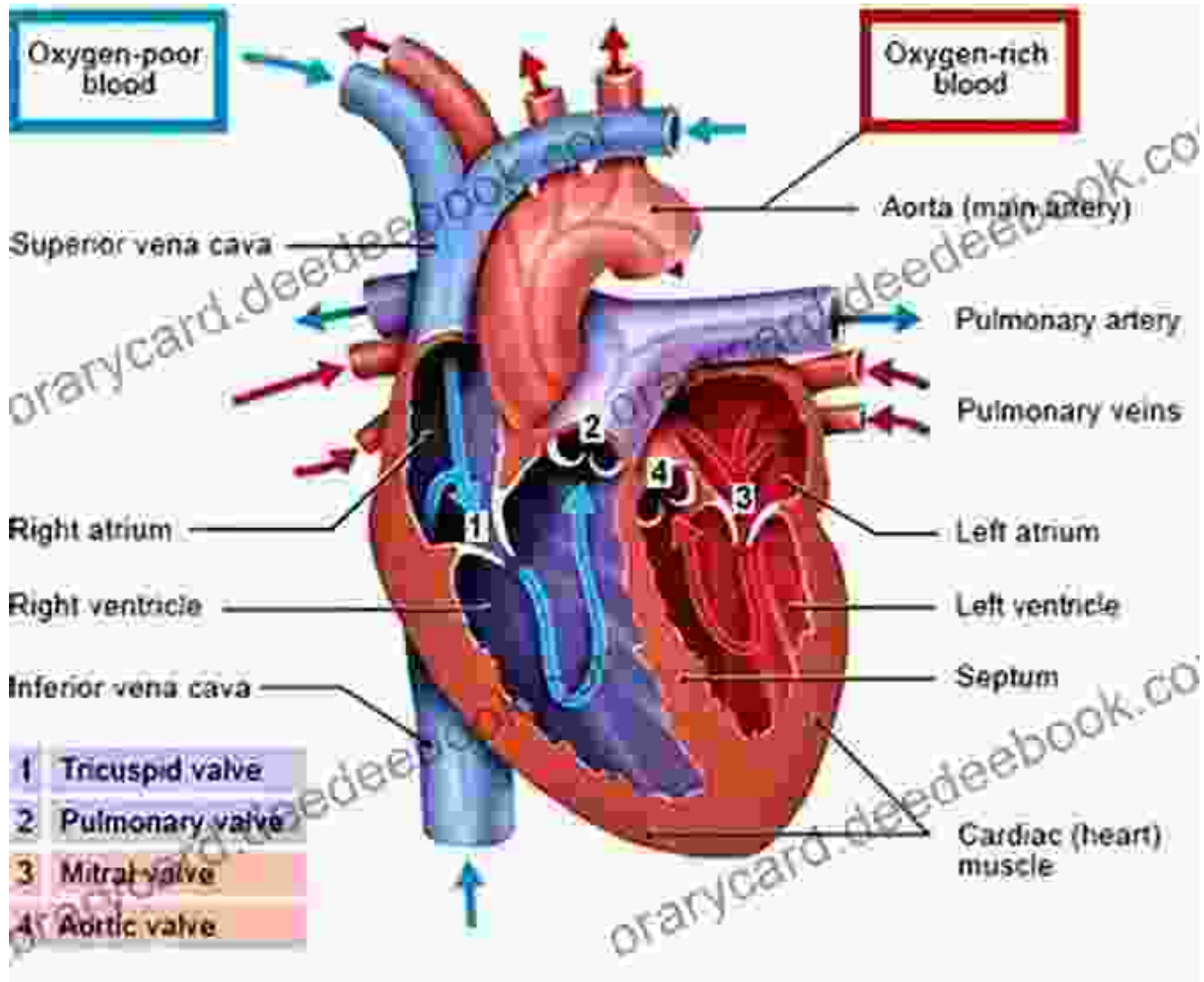
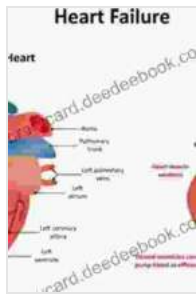


# The Failing Right Heart: A Comprehensive Guide to Right Ventricular Failure



Right ventricular failure (RVF) is a condition in which the right ventricle of the heart is unable to pump enough blood to meet the body's needs. This can lead to a number of symptoms, including shortness of breath, fatigue, and swelling in the legs and feet. RVF can be caused by a variety of factors, including heart disease, lung disease, and pulmonary embolism.



## The Failing Right Heart by Richard B. Borgens

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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File size : 9268 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 542 pages



### Anatomy of the Right Heart

The right ventricle is the lower chamber of the heart that pumps blood to the lungs. The right atrium is the upper chamber of the heart that receives blood from the body. The pulmonary artery is the artery that carries blood from the right ventricle to the lungs. The pulmonary valve is the valve that separates the right ventricle from the pulmonary artery.

### Causes of Right Ventricular Failure

There are a number of factors that can cause RVF, including:

- Heart disease: RVF can be caused by any condition that damages the heart muscle, including coronary artery disease, heart attack, and cardiomyopathy.
- Lung disease: RVF can be caused by any condition that affects the lungs, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and pulmonary fibrosis.
- Pulmonary embolism: RVF can be caused by a pulmonary embolism, which is a blood clot that blocks the pulmonary artery.

## **Symptoms of Right Ventricular Failure**

The symptoms of RVF can vary depending on the severity of the condition. Some of the most common symptoms include:

- Shortness of breath: RVF can cause shortness of breath, especially when lying down or exercising.
- Fatigue: RVF can cause fatigue, even with minimal activity.
- Swelling in the legs and feet: RVF can cause swelling in the legs and feet, due to fluid retention.
- Chest pain: RVF can cause chest pain, which may be sharp or stabbing.
- Lightheadedness or dizziness: RVF can cause lightheadedness or dizziness, due to decreased blood flow to the brain.

## **Diagnosis of Right Ventricular Failure**

RVF is diagnosed based on a physical examination, medical history, and a number of tests, including:

- Echocardiogram: An echocardiogram is an ultrasound of the heart that can show the size and function of the heart chambers.
- Chest X-ray: A chest X-ray can show the size and shape of the heart and lungs.
- Electrocardiogram (ECG): An ECG can show the electrical activity of the heart.
- Blood tests: Blood tests can be used to check for heart damage and other conditions that may be causing RVF.

## Treatment of Right Ventricular Failure

The treatment of RVF depends on the underlying cause. Some of the most common treatments include:

- **Medications:** Medications can be used to improve the function of the heart and lungs, and to reduce fluid retention.
- **Surgery:** Surgery may be necessary to repair or replace a damaged heart valve or to remove a pulmonary embolism.
- **Lifestyle changes:** Lifestyle changes, such as losing weight, eating a healthy diet, and exercising regularly, can help to improve the symptoms of RVF.

## Prognosis of Right Ventricular Failure

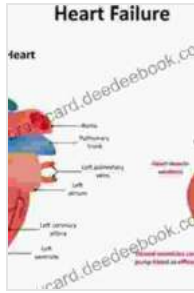
The prognosis of RVF depends on the severity of the condition and the underlying cause. With treatment, most people with RVF can live a full and active life. However, RVF can be a serious condition, and it is important to seek medical attention if you have any of the symptoms of RVF.

RVF is a condition in which the right ventricle of the heart is unable to pump enough blood to meet the body's needs. This can lead to a number of symptoms, including shortness of breath, fatigue, and swelling in the legs and feet. RVF can be caused by a variety of factors, including heart disease, lung disease, and pulmonary embolism. The treatment of RVF depends on the underlying cause, but may include medications, surgery, and lifestyle changes.

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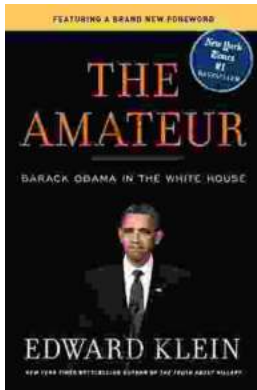
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