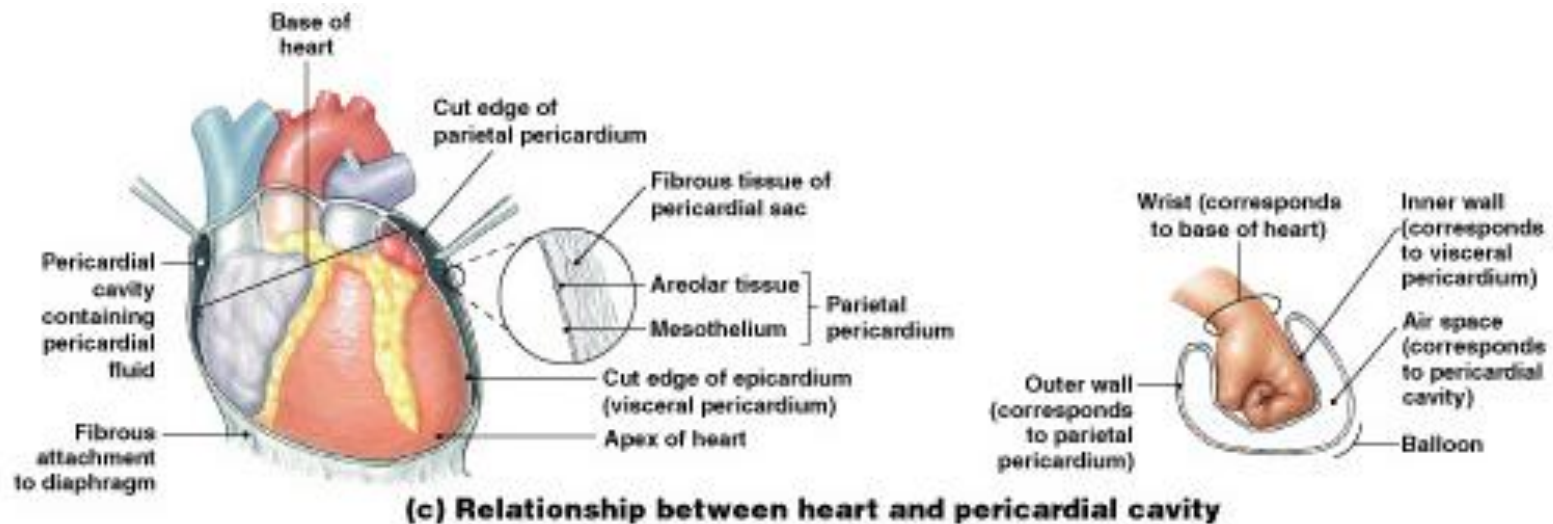


# PERICARDIUM

***What is the structure and function of the pericardium?***

# THE PERICARDIUM

- Double lining of the **pericardial cavity**



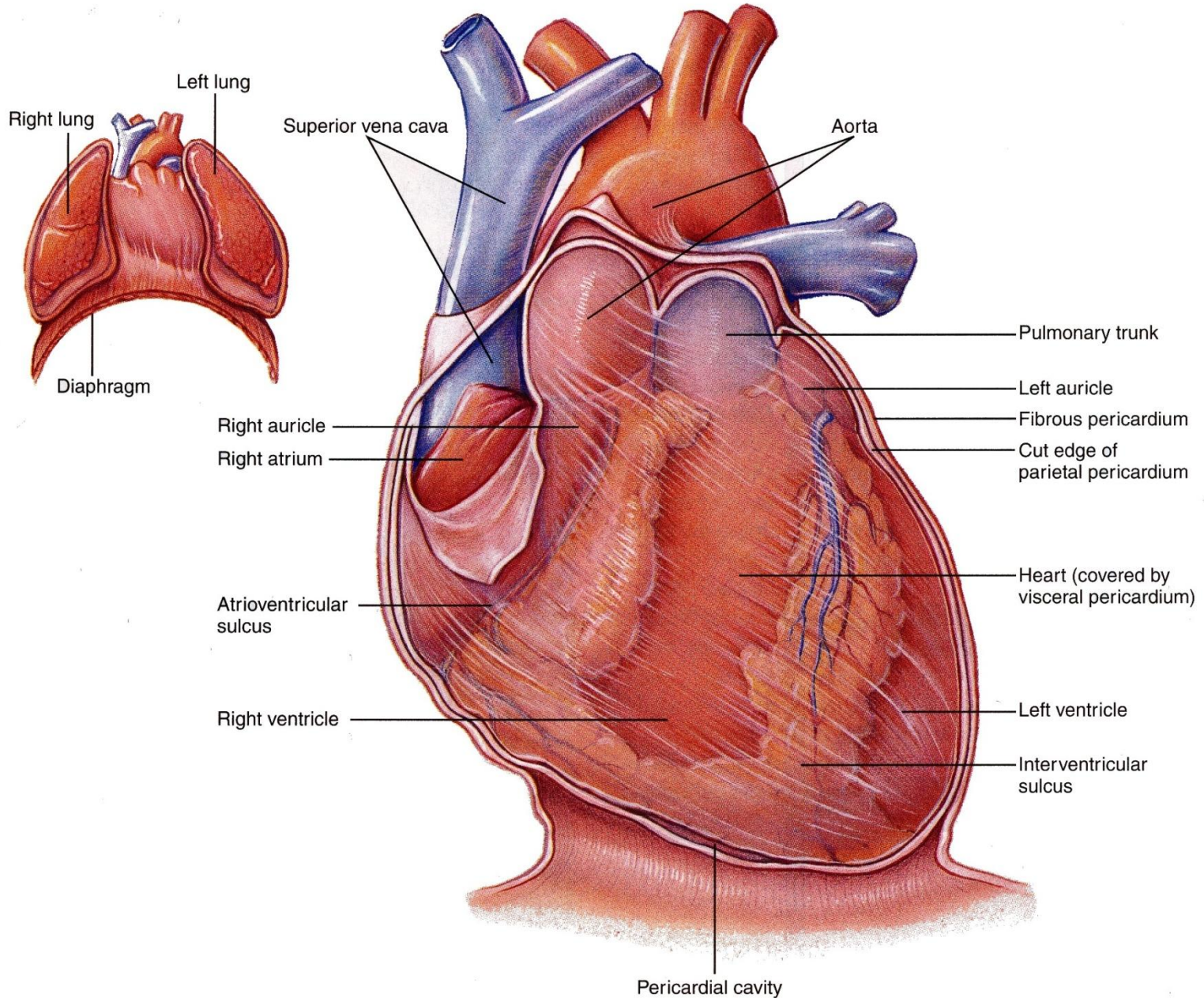
Separates the rest of the thoractic organs.

# THE PERICARDIUM

What do you know about the pericardium?

- What is it?
- Where is it?
- What is its function?

# THE PERICARDIUM



## What is it?

- Fibrous sac surrounding heart-dense network of collagen fibres
- **Serous** membrane – two continuous layers separated by a small amount of fluid lubricant (5-30mls straw coloured)
- Layers are called visceral and parietal
  - Visceral is inner layer (epicardium)
  - Parietal is continuous with diaphragm and outer walls of great arteries

## Where is it?

1. Surrounds the heart
2. Continuous with the great arteries and the diaphragm

## What is it's function?

1. Stabilises the position of the heart within the chest
2. Prevents friction between the moving heart and adjacent structures
3. Allows for small acute changes in size and shape but limits ventricular filling (not the case in chronic setting)