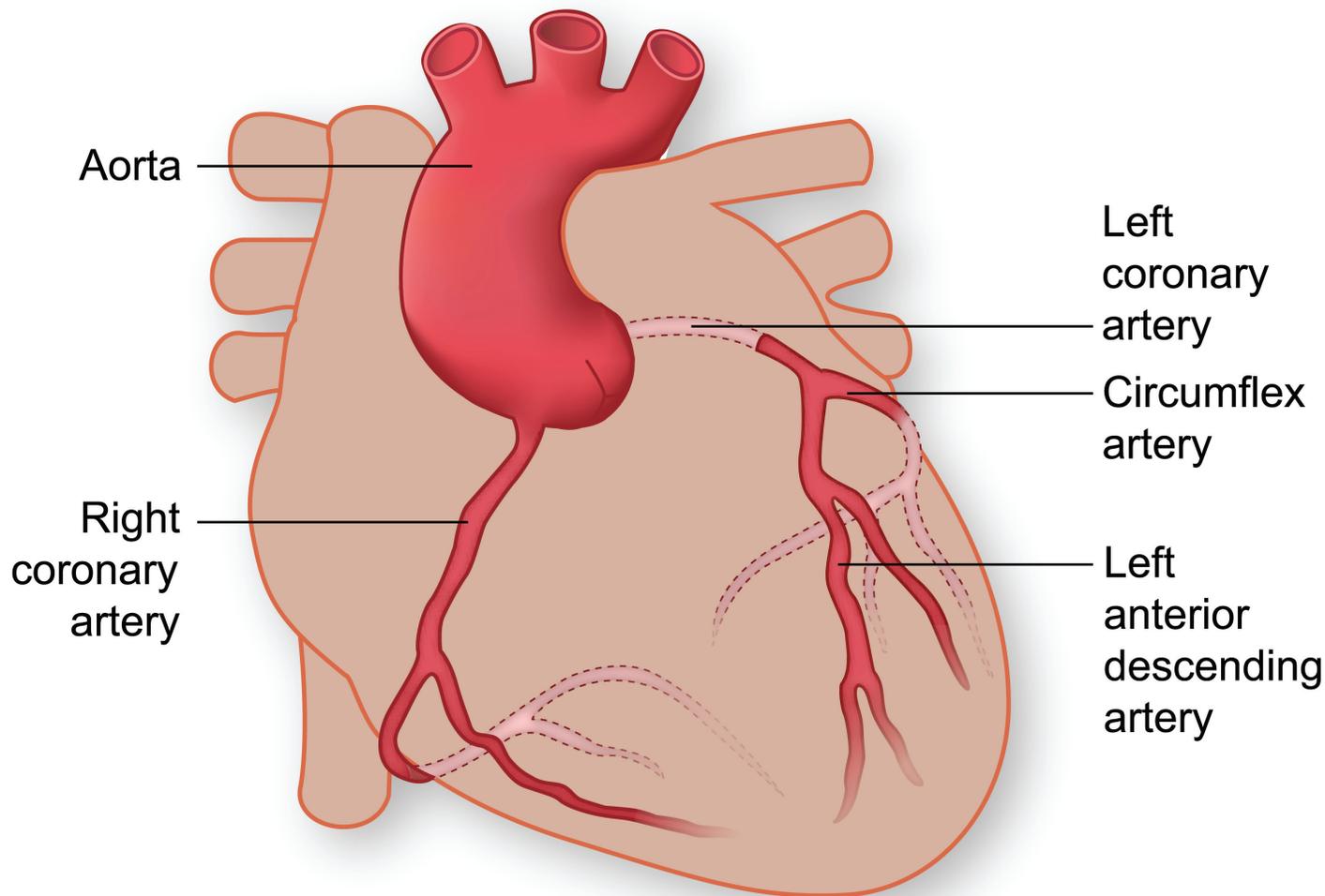


BLOOD VESSELS OF THE HEART: CORONARY ARTERIES



The heart muscle, like every other organ or tissue in your body, needs oxygen-rich blood to survive. Blood is supplied to the heart by its own coronary circulation. The aorta (the main blood supplier to the body) branches off into two main coronary blood vessels (also called **arteries**). These coronary arteries branch off into smaller arteries, which supply oxygen-rich blood to the entire heart muscle.