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Interactive Guide to Physical Examination

Learn the fundamental principle of physical examination. Developed by The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Family Medicine, these interactive modules bring the sights and sounds of the physical examination live.

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Head & Neck
Cardiovascular
Musculoskeletal

Review of Cardiac Anatomy
The heart and great vessels lie in the mediastinum, just under and to the left of the sternum. The heart is the size of a fist. Paradoxically, the wider bottom portion is called the base. The actual position of the heart varies greatly from person to person. In thin, slender people, the heart may be more vertical and more posterior and slightly to the left. Rarely, the heart may be condition termed dextrocardia.

Click on the interactive icon for a review of cardiac anatomy.

Review of Cardiac Physiology
Before proceeding to examination techniques, a thorough understanding of cardiac anatomy is essential. Cardiac physiology is the study of the functioning of the heart and blood vessels.

Click on the interactive icon for a review of cardiac physiology.