Correct position of the heart inside the torax

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El que ha dibujado este corazón en la posición de Valentin "Valentine position" debería leer esta revisión (abajo) que explica la localización correcta de las estructuras cardiacas empleando la posición adecuada "attitudinally aprropiate descriptiom".

Blood volumes: Attitudinally Correct Versus Valentine Attitudinally appropriate Valentin



The left-hand panel shows casts of the cardiac cavities positioned as the heart usually lies within the thorax. The so-called right chambers have been cast in blue and the alleged left chambers in red. As can be seen, in reality, the right atrium and ventricle are largely positioned in front of their left sided counterparts. All that is seen of the left atrium is the tip of the appendage. So as to see all four cardiac chambers, it is necessary to rotate the casts in both the right to left and posterior to anterior planes.

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Abstract

A rule of human anatomy is that all structures within the body should be described relative to the so-called "anatomical position." Along with those describing structures such as the skull and liver, those accounting for the components of the heart consistently break this rule, describing the organ as if removed from the body and positioned on its apex, the so-called "Valentine position." Although potentially appropriate to some animal species, this approach produces problems when used in human anatomy, even if the right and left ventricles are only viewed in truly right-sided and left-sided positions when assessed in the Valentine fashion. The names of the ventricles, of course, are never going to change. This is not necessarily the case with other cardiac components. Consider the artery that extends between the ventricles on their diaphragmatic surface. Blockage produces inferior myocardial infarction, which is to be expected, since the vessel is located in inferior and interventricular position. It is

incorrect to describe the artery as being posterior and descending. Such infelicities are now the more obvious with the advent of techniques that, in clinical cardiology, show the components of the heart as it lies within the chest. In this review, we have assessed the frequency of use of the Valentine approach in popular textbooks used by students of human anatomy. We show that, using the conduction tissues as a model, this system also being incorrectly described in the majority of the textbooks, the situation can be improved by use of attitudinally appropriate description. Clin. Anat., 2019.

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