The myocardium (heart's muscular wall) is constantly active and requires a generous supply of oxygen and energy. In order to provide this constant supply, the heart has its own network of blood vessels. These vessels are the coronary arteries. These two main arteries (the right and left branches from the aorta as it leaves the heart) divide across the heart's surface, sending smaller vessels into the cardiac muscle. Similarly, the coronary veins, which collect waste products from cardiac cells, have such a pattern. Most of the blood in these veins is collected by the coronary sinus. The coronary sinus is a large vein at the back of the heart that empties into the right atrium. Due to the nature of the coronary vessels, if an artery becomes blocked, an alternative route for blood flow can be provided.