

Pericardial Sac

The pericardial sac, also known as the pericardium, is a sac of fluid that surrounds the heart and the roots of the major blood vessels. The pericardial sac has two layers, an **outer fibrous layer** and an **inner serous layer**, and it contains a small amount of fluid.

Function

- **Protects the heart** -The pericardium protects the heart from infection, inflammation, and blunt trauma.
- **Keeps the heart in place** -The pericardium holds the heart in place in the chest and prevents it from stretching too much.
- **Lubricates the heart** -The fluid in the pericardium reduces friction between the layers of the pericardium as the heart beats.
- **Separates the heart** -The pericardium separates the heart from other structures in the chest, like the lungs.

Layers of Pericardial Sac

- **Fibrous pericardium** -The outer layer of the pericardium, made of strong, inelastic connective tissue.
- **Serous pericardium** -The inner layer of the pericardium, made of a serous membrane that secretes fluid.

Pericardial effusion -Pericardial effusion is a condition where fluid accumulates in the pericardial sac. This can be caused by a number of medical conditions.

