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dictionary

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per·i·car·di·um  (pě'r'ī-kär dē-əm)

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n. pl. **per·i·car·di·a** (-dē-ə)

The membranous sac filled with serous fluid that encloses the heart and the roots of the aorta and other large blood vessels.

[New Latin, from Greek *perikardion*, from *perikardios*, around the heart : *peri-*, peri- + *kardiā*, heart; see **kerd-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

per'i-car di-al (-dē-əl), **per'i-car di-ac'** (-dē-ăk') *adj.*

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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