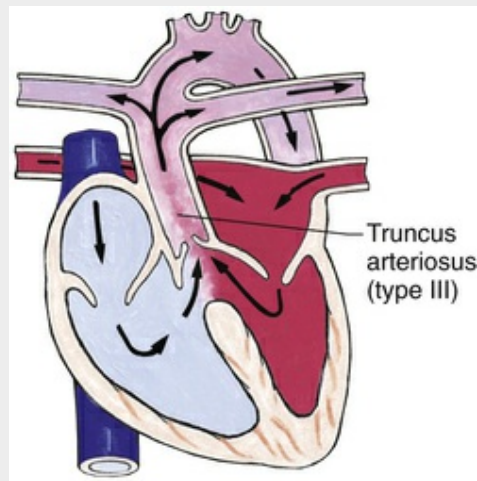


## Truncus Arteriosus



**Description:** Failure of normal septation and division of the embryonic bulbar trunk into the pulmonary artery and the aorta, which results in development of a single vessel that overrides both ventricles. Blood from both ventricles mixes in the common great artery, which leads to desaturation and hypoxemia. Blood ejected from the heart flows preferentially to the lower-pressure pulmonary arteries so that pulmonary blood flow is increased and systemic blood flow is reduced. There are three types:

*Type I:* A single pulmonary trunk arises near the base of the truncus and divides into the left and right pulmonary arteries.

*Type II:* The left and right pulmonary arteries arise separately but in close proximity and at the same level from the back of the truncus.

*Type III:* The pulmonary arteries arise independently from the sides of the truncus.

**Pathophysiology:** Blood ejected from the left and right ventricles