



25 YEARS
of health
information

Home → Health Topics → Congenital Heart Defects

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/congenitalheartdefects.html>

Congenital Heart Defects

What are congenital heart defects?

Congenital heart defects (CHDs) are problems with the structure of the heart. "Congenital" means that the problems are present at birth. These defects happen when a fetus's heart doesn't develop normally during pregnancy. Congenital heart defects are the most common type of birth defect [<https://medlineplus.gov/birthdefects.html>].

Congenital heart defects can change the way the heart pumps blood. They may make blood flow too slowly, go the wrong way, or block it completely.

There are many types of congenital heart defects. They can happen in one or more parts of the heart. The most common types are:

- **Septal defects** ("hole in the heart") - openings in the wall between the left and right sides of the heart
- Heart valve [<https://medlineplus.gov/heartvalvediseases.html>] **defects** - problems with the valves that control the flow of blood through the heart
- **Defects in the large blood vessels** that carry blood in and out of the heart

Congenital heart defects can range from very mild problems that never need treatment to life-threatening problems at birth. The most serious congenital heart defects are called **critical congenital heart disease**

[<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/critical-congenital-heart-disease/>] . Babies with these defects usually need surgery in the first year of life. But the symptoms of milder heart defects may not show up until childhood or adulthood.

What causes congenital heart defects?

Researchers often don't know what causes congenital heart defects. They do know that changes in a baby's genes sometimes cause a heart defect. The changed genes may come from the parents, or the changes may happen during pregnancy.

Who is more likely to have a baby with a congenital heart defect?

Several things may increase the chance that your baby has a congenital heart defect, such as:

- **Your health before and during pregnancy**, including:
 - Having diabetes [<https://medlineplus.gov/diabetes.html>] before pregnancy or developing it in the first 3 months of pregnancy [<https://medlineplus.gov/diabetesandpregnancy.html>] (diabetes that develops later in pregnancy isn't a major risk for heart defects). Carefully controlling your **blood glucose** [<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodglucose.html>], also called blood sugar, before and during pregnancy can lower your baby's risk of congenital heart defects.
 - Having phenylketonuria [<https://medlineplus.gov/phenylketonuria.html>] (PKU), a rare inherited disorder that affects how the body uses a protein in foods. If you have PKU, eating a low-protein diet before getting pregnant can lower your baby's risk of having a congenital heart defect.
 - Having rubella [<https://medlineplus.gov/rubella.html>] (German measles) during pregnancy.
- **Your contact with certain substances during pregnancy**, including:

- Smoking [<https://medlineplus.gov/smoking.html>] or secondhand smoke [<https://medlineplus.gov/secondhandsmoke.html>] (breathing smoke from another smoker).
- Certain medicines [<https://medlineplus.gov/pregnancyandmedicines.html>] , such as angiotensin-converting (ACE) inhibitors for high blood pressure and retinoic acids for acne. If you're pregnant or plan to get pregnant, talk with your health care provider about all the medicines you take.
- **Your family history and genetics.** In most cases, congenital heart defects don't run in families. But your chance of having a baby with a congenital heart defect does go up if you or the other parent has a congenital heart defect, or if you already have a child with a congenital heart defect.

What are the symptoms of congenital heart defects?

Congenital heart defects don't cause pain. The signs and symptoms are different, depending on the type and number of defects and how serious they are.

Common signs and symptoms of congenital heart defects include:

- Cyanosis - a bluish color to the skin, lips, and fingernails. It happens when there isn't enough oxygen in the blood.
- Fatigue [<https://medlineplus.gov/fatigue.html>] - your baby may be unusually sleepy and may become very tired during feedings.
- Poor blood flow.
- Fast or difficult breathing.
- Heart murmur - an unusual sound between heartbeats.

What other problems do congenital heart defects cause?

Congenital heart defects don't always cause other problems. If they do, which problems you have would depend on the type and number of defects and how serious the defects are.

Children with congenital heart defects are more likely to:

- Be smaller than other children
- Have problems or delays in mental, and emotional growth, and behavior, such as:
 - Speech and language problems [<https://medlineplus.gov/speechandlanguageproblemsinchildren.html>]
 - Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) [<https://medlineplus.gov/attentiondeficithyperactivitydisorder.html>]

People with congenital heart defects may develop other health conditions, including:

- Endocarditis [<https://medlineplus.gov/endocarditis.html>] - an infection of lining of the heart and valves
- Arrhythmia [<https://medlineplus.gov/arrhythmia.html>] - a problem with the rate or rhythm of your heartbeat
- Heart failure [<https://medlineplus.gov/heartfailure.html>] - when your heart can't pump enough blood to the body
- Pulmonary hypertension [<https://medlineplus.gov/pulmonaryhypertension.html>] - high blood pressure in your lungs
- Kidney [<https://medlineplus.gov/kidneydiseases.html>] and liver disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/liverdiseases.html>]

How are congenital heart defects diagnosed?

- **Before a baby is born**, your provider may use ultrasound [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/sonogram/>] pictures of the fetus's heart to look for heart defects. This is called a fetal echocardiogram. It's done between weeks 18 and 22 of pregnancy.
- **During the first few days after birth**, all newborns are checked for congenital heart defects. A pulse oximeter [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/pulse-oximetry/>] is clipped to your baby's hands or feet to measure blood oxygen. If it shows low levels of blood oxygen, more tests will be needed to find out if your baby has a heart defect.
- **To diagnose congenital heart defects in babies, children, and adults**, a provider may use many tools, including:
 - A physical exam.
 - Certain heart tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/hearthealthtests.html>] to see how the heart is working.
 - Genetic testing [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetictesting.html>] to see if certain gene problems caused the defect.

What are the treatments for congenital heart defects?

Treatment depends on the type of congenital heart defect and how serious it is. Possible treatments include:

- **Cardiac catheterization** to repair simple defects, such as a small hole in the inside wall of the heart. A catheterization uses a thin tube guided through a vein and into the heart.
- Heart surgery [<https://medlineplus.gov/heartsurgery.html>] may be needed to:
 - Repair defects in the heart and blood vessels.
 - Repair or replace a heart valve.
 - Place a device in the chest to help the heart pump blood.
 - Do a heart transplant [<https://medlineplus.gov/hearttransplantation.html>]
- Medicine is often used if your baby has a specific type of congenital heart defect called patent ductus arteriosus.

All children and adults who have congenital heart defects need regular follow-up care from a cardiologist (a doctor who specializes in heart diseases) throughout their life, even if their defect was repaired.

Some people may need several heart surgeries or catheterizations over the years. They may also need to take medicines to help their hearts work as well as possible.

NIH: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Start Here

- About Congenital Heart Defects [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About Congenital Heart Defects [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/congenital-heart-defects/about-congenital-heart-defects>] (American Heart Association)
- Congenital Heart Defects and Critical CHDs [<https://www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/planning-baby/congenital-heart-defects-and-critical-chds>] (March of Dimes Foundation)
- What Are Congenital Heart Defects? [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/congenital-heart-defects>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/cardiopatias-congenitas>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- Heart Health Tests: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/hearthealthtests.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/hearthealthtests.html>]

Treatments and Therapies

- Cardiac Catheterizations for Heart Defects [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/congenital-heart-defects/care-and-treatment-for-congenital-heart-defects/cardiac-catheterizations-for-heart-defects>] (American Heart Association) - PDF
- Glenn Procedure [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/glenn.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/glenn-es.html>]
- Heart Treatments [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/heart-treatments-procedures>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/tratamientos-cardiacos-procedimientos>]

Living With

- Care and Treatment for Congenital Heart Defects [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/congenital-heart-defects/care-and-treatment-for-congenital-heart-defects>] (American Heart Association)
- Challenges Faced by Parents of Children with Congenital Heart Disease [<https://www.healthychildren.org/english/health-issues/conditions/heart/pages/challenges-faced-by-parents-of-children-with-congenital-heart-disease.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/health-issues/conditions/heart/paginas/challenges-faced-by-parents-of-children-with-congenital-heart-disease.aspx>]

- Feeding Tips for Your Baby with CHD [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/congenital-heart-defects/care-and-treatment-for-congenital-heart-defects/feeding-tips-for-your-baby-with-chd>] (American Heart Association)
- Living with a Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/living-with/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Related Issues

- Congenital Heart Defects and Physical Activity [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/congenital-heart-defects/care-and-treatment-for-congenital-heart-defects/congenital-heart-defects-and-physical-activity>] (American Heart Association)
- Heart Murmurs [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/heart-murmurs/symptoms-causes/syc-20373171?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Heart Murmurs and Your Child (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/murmurs.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/murmurs.html>]
- Infective Endocarditis [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/infective-endocarditis>] (American Heart Association)

Specifics

- About Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/atrial-septal-defect.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About Atrioventricular Septal Defect (AVSD) [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/atrioventricular-septal-defect.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About Coarctation of the Aorta [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/coarctation-of-the-aorta.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About dextro-Transposition of the Great Arteries (d-TGA) [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/d-tga.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS) [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/hypoplastic-left-heart-syndrome.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About Pulmonary Atresia [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/pulmonary-atresia.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About Tetralogy of Fallot [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/tetralogy-of-fallot.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return (TAPVR) [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/tapvr.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About Truncus Arteriosus [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/truncus-arteriosus.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- About Ventricular Septal Defect [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/about/ventricular-septal-defect.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Aortic Valve Stenosis [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/aortic-stenosis/symptoms-causes/syc-20353139?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC) [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/arrhythmogenic-right-ventricular-dysplasia/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/displasia-ventricular-derecha-arritmogenica-es/?adfree=true>]
- Atrioventricular Canal Defect [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/atrioventricular-canal-defect/symptoms-causes/syc-20361492?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Coarctation of the Aorta [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coarctation-of-the-aorta/symptoms-causes/syc-20352529?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/coarctation-of-the-aorta/symptoms-causes/syc-20352529?p=1>]
- Congenitally Corrected Transposition of the Great Arteries (CCTGA) [<https://www.achaheart.org/your-heart/educational-qas/types-of-heart-defects/cctga/>] (Adult Congenital Heart Association)

- Coronary Artery Anomalies [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/coronary-artery-anomalies/>] (Texas Heart Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/anomalias-de-las-arterias-coronarias/>]
 - Cyanosis [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/cyanosis/>] (Texas Heart Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/cianosis/>]
 - Double Outlet Right Ventricle [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/double-outlet-right-ventricle/>] (Texas Heart Institute)
 - Double Outlet Right Ventricle (DORV) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/dorv.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/dorv.html>]
 - Learning about Velocardiofacial Syndrome [<https://www.genome.gov/Genetic-Disorders/Velocardiofacial-Syndrome>]  (National Human Genome Research Institute)
 - Patent Foramen Ovale [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/patent-foramen-ovale/symptoms-causes/syc-20353487?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
 - Pulmonary Atresia [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/pulmonary-atresia/>] (Texas Heart Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/atresia-pulmonar/>]
 - Pulmonary Valve Stenosis [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/pulmonary-valve-stenosis/symptoms-causes/syc-20377034?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/pulmonary-valve-stenosis/symptoms-causes/syc-20377034?p=1>]
 - Tricuspid Atresia [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/tricuspid-atresia/symptoms-causes/syc-20368392?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
 - Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/ventricular-septal-defect/symptoms-causes/syc-20353495?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- ## Genetics
- 22q11.2 deletion syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/22q112-deletion-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Alagille Syndrome [<https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/804/alagille-syndrome>]  (Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center)
Also in Spanish [<https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/espanol/13396/sindrome-de-alagille>]
 - Alagille syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/alagille-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Cantú syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cantu-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Cardiofaciocutaneous syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cardiofaciocutaneous-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Char syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/char-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - CHARGE syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/charge-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Critical congenital heart disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/critical-congenital-heart-disease>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Genetic Counseling for Congenital Heart Defects [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/congenital-heart-defects/understand-your-risk-for-congenital-heart-defects/genetic-counseling-for-congenital-heart-defects>] (American Heart Association)
 - Holt-Oram syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/holt-oram-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)

- McKusick-Kaufman syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/mckusick-kaufman-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- MED13L syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/med13l-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Noonan syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/noonan-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Oculofaciocardiodental syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/oculofaciocardiodental-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Recombinant 8 syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/recombinant-8-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Supravalvular aortic stenosis: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/supravalvular-aortic-stenosis>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Timothy syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/timothy-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Statistics and Research

- Congenital Heart Defects: Data and Statistics [<https://www.cdc.gov/heart-defects/data/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Heart and Stroke Statistics [<https://www.heart.org/en/about-us/heart-and-stroke-association-statistics>] (American Heart Association)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Heart Defects, Congenital [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Heart+Defects,+Congenital%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Heart Murmurs [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Heart+Murmurs%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Innovative nitric oxide delivery technology for postoperative pulmonary hypertension in congenital... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40681972>]
- Article: Characterization of Apixaban Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics and Dose Assessment in Pediatric Patients with... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40551722>]
- Article: Role of phosphodiesterase-3 inhibitor in cardiorespiratory fitness and functional class of... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40352196>]
- Congenital Heart Defects -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Heart+Defects%2C+Congenital%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+AND+%28patient+education+handout%5Bpt%5D+OR+guideline%5Bpt%5D+OR+clinical+trial%5Bpt%5D%29++NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Reference Desk

- How the Heart Works [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/heart>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/corazon>]

Find an Expert

- American Heart Association [<https://www.heart.org/en/>]
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome (DiGeorge Syndrome) (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/22q11-deletion.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/22q11-deletion.html>]
- Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/asd.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/asd.html>]
- Atrioventricular Canal Defect (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/av-canal-defect.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/av-canal-defect.html>]
- Congenital Heart Defects (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/if-heart-defect.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
- Heart Murmurs (For Kids) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/heart-murmurs.html>]  (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/heart-murmurs.html>]
- Levo-Transposition of the Great Arteries (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/l-tga.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/l-tga.html>]
- Noonan Syndrome (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/noonan-syndrome.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/noonan-syndrome.html>]
- Single Ventricle Defects (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/single-vent-defects.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/single-vent-defects.html>]
- Tricuspid Atresia [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/tricuspid-atresia.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/tricuspid-atresia.html>]
- Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/vsd.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/vsd.html>]
- What Is a Pediatric Heart Surgeon? [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/health-management/pediatric-specialists/Pages/What-is-a-Pediatric-Heart-Surgeon.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/family-life/health-management/pediatric-specialists/paginas/what-is-a-pediatric-heart-surgeon.aspx>]
- What's an Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)? [https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/atrial_septal_defect_animation.html] 
Also in Spanish [https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/atrial_septal_defect_animation.html]
- What's Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS)? (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/hypoplastic-hlhs-animation.html>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/hypoplastic-hlhs-animation.html>]
- Williams Syndrome (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/williams-syndrome.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/williams-syndrome.html>]

Women

- Heart Conditions and Pregnancy: Know the Risks [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/pregnancy-week-by-week/in-depth/pregnancy/art-20045977?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/healthy-lifestyle/pregnancy-week-by-week/in-depth/pregnancy/art-20045977?p=1>]
- Women and Congenital Heart Defects [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/congenital-heart-defects/the-impact-of-congenital-heart-defects/chds-impact-on-females>] (American Heart Association)

Patient Handouts

- Atrial septal defect (ASD) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000157.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000157.htm>]
- Bicuspid aortic valve [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007325.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007325.htm>]
- Congenital heart defect - corrective surgery [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002948.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002948.htm>]

- Congenital heart disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001114.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001114.htm>]
- Cyanotic heart disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001104.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001104.htm>]
- Dextrocardia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007326.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007326.htm>]
- Echocardiogram - children [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007669.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007669.htm>]
- Heart murmurs [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003266.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003266.htm>]
- Patent ductus arteriosus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001560.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001560.htm>]
- Ventricular septal defect [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001099.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001099.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

[Aarskog syndrome](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001654.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001654.htm>]

[Absent pulmonary valve](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007314.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007314.htm>]

[Anomalous left coronary artery from the pulmonary artery](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007323.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007323.htm>]

[Aortopulmonary window](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007319.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007319.htm>]

[Atrial septal defect \(ASD\)](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000157.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000157.htm>]

[Bicuspid aortic valve](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007325.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007325.htm>]

[Chest x-ray](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003804.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003804.htm>]

[Coarctation of the aorta](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000191.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000191.htm>]

[Congenital heart defect - corrective surgery](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002948.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002948.htm>]

[Congenital heart disease](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001114.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001114.htm>]

[Coronary artery fistula](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007315.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007315.htm>]

[Cyanotic heart disease](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001104.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001104.htm>]

[Dextrocardia](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007326.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007326.htm>]

[Double aortic arch](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007316.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007316.htm>]

Double inlet left ventricle [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007327.htm>]

Double outlet right ventricle [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007328.htm>]

Ebstein anomaly [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007321.htm>]

Eisenmenger syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007317.htm>]

Endocardial cushion defect [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007324.htm>]

Heart murmurs [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003266.htm>]

Hypoplastic left heart syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001106.htm>]

Left heart catheterization [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003871.htm>]

Patent ductus arteriosus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001560.htm>]

Patent foramen ovale [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001113.htm>]

Pediatric heart surgery [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007363.htm>]

Pediatric heart surgery - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000015.htm>]

Pulmonary atresia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001091.htm>]

Pulmonic valve stenosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001096.htm>]

Tetralogy of Fallot [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001567.htm>]

Total anomalous pulmonary venous return [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001115.htm>]

Transposition of the great arteries [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001568.htm>]

Tricuspid atresia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001110.htm>]

Truncus arteriosus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001111.htm>]

Vascular ring [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007318.htm>]

Ventricular septal defect [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001099.htm>]

Related Health Topics

[Birth Defects](https://medlineplus.gov/birthdefects.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/birthdefects.html>]

[Cardiomyopathy](https://medlineplus.gov/cardiomypathy.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/cardiomypathy.html>]

[Heart Diseases](https://medlineplus.gov/heardiseases.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/heardiseases.html>]

[Heart Health Tests](https://medlineplus.gov/hearthealthtests.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/hearthealthtests.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Congenital Heart Defects* is the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>]

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies.

MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our [disclaimer](#)

[<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our [quality guidelines](#)

[<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>].

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)

National Library of Medicine 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health

Last updated March 12, 2025