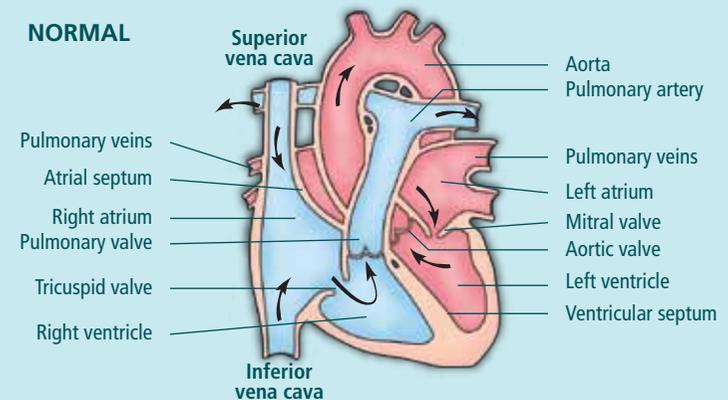


Interruption of the Aortic Arch

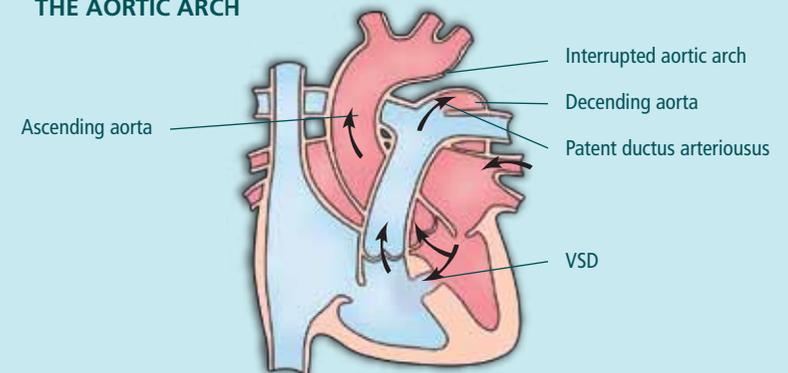
WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT THE HEART?

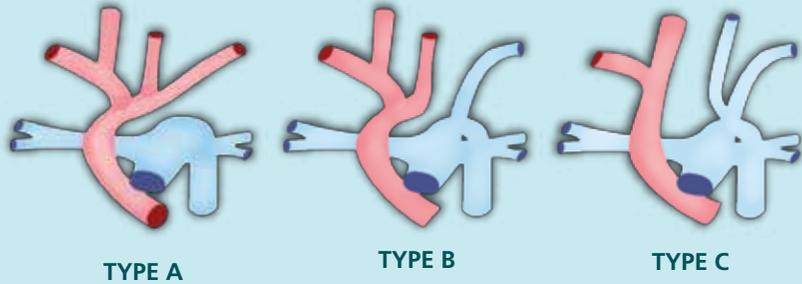
Part of the aorta is absent and this causes severe obstruction to blood flow to the lower part of the body. The ductus allows flow to the lower part of the body before birth but as it closes in the newborn period, blood pressure and blood flow in the lower part of body becomes inadequate and leading to organs failure.

NORMAL



INTERRUPTION OF THE AORTIC ARCH





HOW WOULD THE INTERRUPTED ARCH AFFECT MY CHILD?

Most affected infants develop severe symptoms (difficulty breathing, congestive heart failure, and impaired kidney and liver function) in the first week of life.

Most affected infants also have a large VSD or other defects.

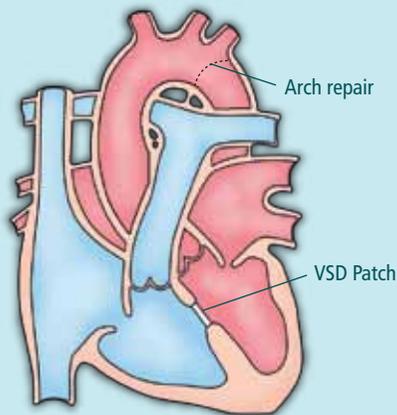
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY CHILD IF UNTREATED?

Congestive heart failure, multi-organ failure and death are inevitable once the ductus is closed.

HOW CAN IT BE TREATED?

Temporary medical therapy to maintain the patency of ductus using a medication called prostaglandin.

AFTER REPAIR



Definitive surgery to repair the arch and the associated VSD / other defects. The operation involves either a left thoracotomy or sternotomy depending on the type of interruption and associated intracardiac lesions. It is a difficult and major surgery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY CHILD AFTER SURGERY?

High risk surgery with peri-operative morbidity and mortality. The long term outcome is generally good.

However patients needs follow up to ensure there is no recurrent narrowing of the arch at the surgical site.



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- Patients need long term follow-up to monitor the arch repair.
- May need surgery or intervention in future if arch becomes narrow.



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SURGERY?