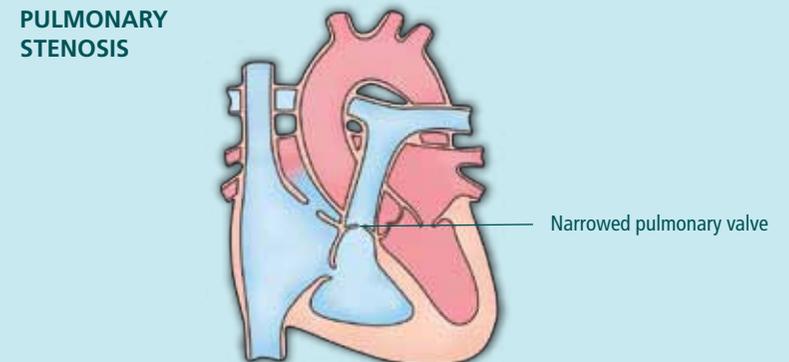
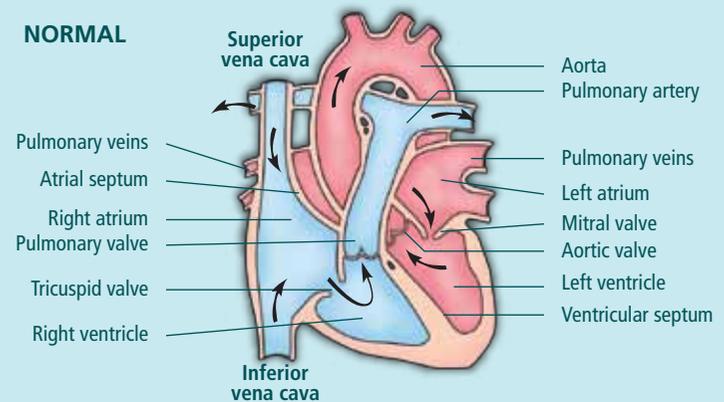


Pulmonary Stenosis (PS)

WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT THE HEART?

The pulmonary valve opens to let blood flow from the right pumping chamber (right ventricle) to the lungs arteries (pulmonary arteries).

Narrowing of the pulmonary valve (valvar pulmonary stenosis) restricts the blood flow from the right pumping chamber to the lungs. The pressure is much higher than normal in the right pumping chamber (right ventricle) and the heart must work harder to pump blood out into the lung arteries. Over time this can cause damage to the overworked heart muscle.



HOW WOULD THE PS AFFECT MY CHILD?

The onset of symptoms depends on the severity of pulmonary stenosis.

If the stenosis is mild or moderate, the children will not have symptoms except an audible cardiac murmur.

If the stenosis is severe, especially in babies, bluish discoloration may occur. Older children usually have no symptoms.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY CHILD IF UNTREATED?

The degree of obstruction may progress with time.

If the PS is mild, the child will remain stable unless the severity has progress.

If the PS is severe, the pressure in the right pumping chamber is high and the heart must work harder to pump blood out into the lungs. Over time this can cause thickening (hypertrophy) and damage to the overworked right heart muscle.

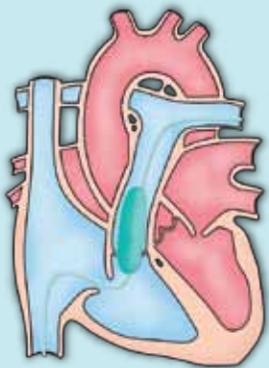
HOW CAN IT BE TREATED?

The pulmonary valve can be treated to improve the obstruction but the valve can't be made normal.

No intervention is needed if the pulmonary stenosis is mild.

Intervention is needed if the pulmonary stenosis is severe even though there may be no symptom. Most of the stenotic pulmonary valve could be opened up by using a balloon catheter, and some may need surgery.

BALLOON VALVULOPLASTY



Transcatheter pulmonary balloon valvuloplasty

A catheter with a balloon at the tip was inserted through a vein at the groin, the balloon is placed across the pulmonary valve. The balloon is then inflated for a short time to stretch open the valve.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY CHILD AFTER SURGERY OR BALLOON DILATATION?

The long-term outlook after balloon valvuloplasty or surgery is excellent. Periodic follow up may be needed to look for uncommon problems such as worsening of the obstruction again or leaky valve.



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WHAT HAPPENS
AFTER SURGERY?