

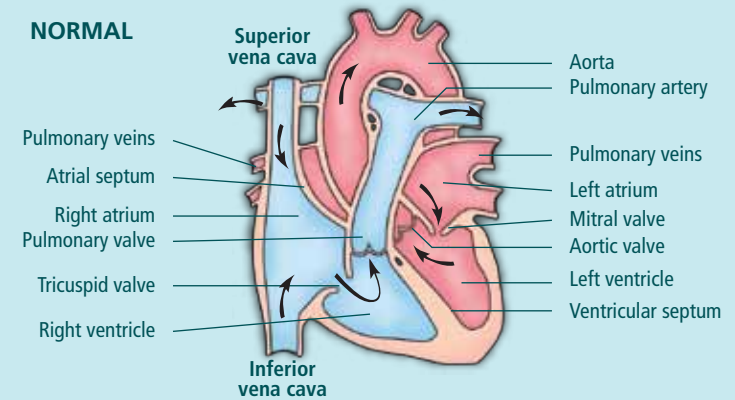
Tetralogy Of Fallot (TOF)

WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT THE HEART?

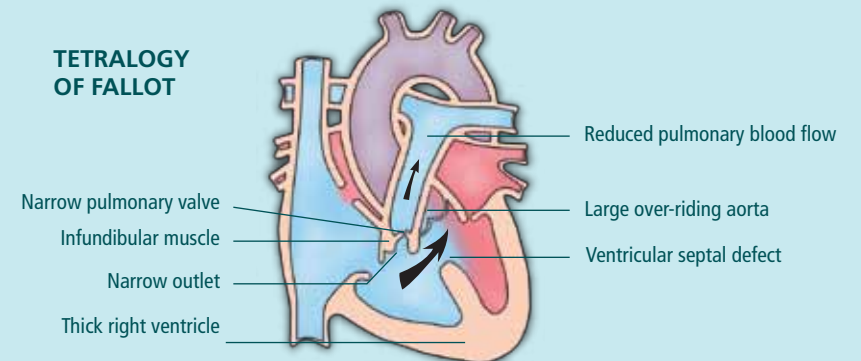
Tetra means four in Greek. Therefore, that means there are four things that occur in this type of defect:

- There is narrowing of the outflow tract of the right side of the heart.
- There is a hole in between the two pumping chambers of the heart (Ventricular Septal Defect).
- The aorta is overriding and receives blood from both chambers of the heart and so, causes mixing of oxygenated (red) and deoxygenated (blue) blood.
- The right chambers of the heart have to work harder the narrower the opening and so the muscles become thicker. The narrower the opening the more blue the baby.

NORMAL



TETRALOGY OF FALLOT



HOW WOULD IT AFFECT MY CHILD?

They normally present in two ways:

- They appear normal (pink) or mildly blue (cyanosed) but become very blue when they cry.
- They may suddenly become very lethargic and very blue. This is known as hypercyanotic spells.

HOW CAN IT BE TREATED?

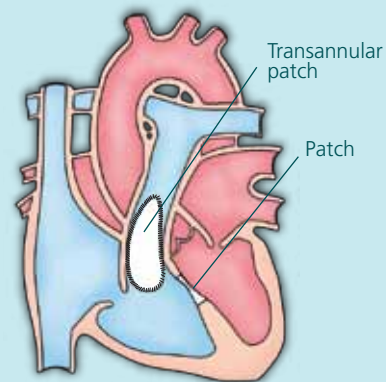
Your child will need an operation to correct the defects-close the hole (VSD) and open up the outflow tract on the right side.

Sometimes, an earlier operation may be performed if your child becomes more blue, called the Blalock Taussig shunt. This connects the subclavian artery (artery to the arms) to the pulmonary artery (artery to the lungs) in order to provide oxygenated blood to the lungs. This is done through a cut at the side of the ribs.

BLALOCK TAUSSIG SHUNT



TOTAL TOF REPAIR



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY CHILD IF UNTREATED?

Your child will become progressively blue and the right side of the heart becomes more and more dilated. The blueness would limit his / her exercise capability and he or she may become too sick to even breathe.

Eventually the right sided chambers become stiff and increases the risk for surgery. Sometimes, the risk would be too high and surgery would no longer be an option.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SURGERY?

You will need long term follow up with your doctor. The opened up pulmonary valve may leak afterwards and your child may need further operations in the future to repair the leak.



Institut Jantung Negara (245794-V)
145, Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur



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- Your child may need further operations when he is older / in adulthood.



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