

**Department Of Health and Mental Hygiene
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs**

Transposition of the Great Arteries

What is Transposition of the Great Arteries?

- Heart defect which is present at birth (congenital)
- Condition in which the two major vessels (aorta and pulmonary artery) that carry blood away from the heart are reversed. This means blood from the lungs goes back to the lungs and blood from the body goes back to the body.

What is the cause of Transposition of the Great Arteries?

- The cause is unknown but abnormal blood vessel formation occurs during fetal development.

Signs and Symptoms

- Bluish skin color, especially around lips and fingernails
- Clubbing of fingers or toes (blunting and broadening of the tips)
- Poor feeding
- Shortness of breath

How is Transposition of the Great Arteries treated?

- Medication called prostaglandin is used to keep the Ductus Arteriosus open. (Ductus Arteriosus is a blood vessel between the pulmonary artery and aorta that allows blood to flow to the lungs to pick up oxygen)
- The infant will need a surgery called the arterial switch procedure. The surgery switches the great arteries back to the normal position so that oxygen can be delivered to the body.

Resources

- Congenital Heart Disease Information and Resources
<http://www.tchin.org/>
1-609-822-1572
- Little Hearts Inc.
www.littlehearts.org
1-866-435-4673
- March of Dimes
www.marchofdimes.com
1-410-546-2241
- Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs
phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics/
1-855-535-5655
- The Parents' Place Of Maryland
www.ppmmd.org
1-410-768-9100