Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return

What is Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return (TAPVR)?
- Heart defect which is present at birth (congenital)
- It is a condition in which oxygen-rich blood flows from the lungs to the right atrium or to a vein flowing into the right atrium instead of the left side of the heart. As a result, the blood flows to and from the lungs and never flows to the rest of the body.

What is the cause of Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return?
- The cause is unknown but abnormal blood vessel formation occurs during fetal development.

Signs and Symptoms
- Bluish skin color, especially around lips and fingernails
- Frequent respiratory infections
- Poor feeding and poor growth
- Lethargy (tiredness)
- Fainting episodes
- Fast and difficult breathing

How is Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return treated?
- Surgery is required to connect the pulmonary veins to the left atrium to allow oxygenated blood to circulate to the body.

Support Groups and Online Resources
- Congenital Heart Disease Information and Resources
  1-609-822-1572

- Little Hearts Inc.
  [www.littlehearts.org](http://www.littlehearts.org)
  1-866-435-4673

- March of Dimes
  [www.marchofdimes.com](http://www.marchofdimes.com)
  1-410-546-2241

- Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs
  [phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics/](http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics/)
  1-855-535-5655

- The Parents’ Place Of Maryland
  [www.ppmd.org](http://www.ppmd.org)
  1-410-768-9100