Truncus Arteriosus

What is Truncus Arteriosus?
- Heart defect which is present at birth (congenital)
- This is a condition in which a single blood vessel branches out of the heart, instead of two separate blood vessels - pulmonary artery which takes blood to the lungs and aorta which takes blood to the body.

What is the cause of Truncus Arteriosus?
- It occurs during fetal growth and development but the cause is unknown

Signs and Symptoms
- Bluish skin color, especially around the lips and fingernails
- Lethargy (tiredness)
- Poor feeding
- Fast and difficult breathing
- Delayed growth and development

How is Truncus Arteriosus treated?
- Medicines may be used to improve blood circulation.
- Surgery is needed to create two separate main arteries leaving the heart – the pulmonary artery to the lungs and the aorta to the body.

Support Groups and Online 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
  phpaa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics/
  1-855-535-5655

- The Parents’ Place Of Maryland
  www.ppmd.org
  1-410-768-9100