

**Office for Genetics
and
Children with Special Health Care Needs**

Esophageal Atresia /Stenosis/Tracheoesophageal Fistula

Fact Sheet

What is Esophageal Atresia/Stenosis? What is a Tracheoesophageal Fistula?

- A birth defect in which the upper and lower ends of the esophagus (tube from the throat to the stomach) are not connected
- The esophagus ends in a blind pouch as oppose to connecting normally to the stomach and there is often a tracheoesophageal fistula
- Tracheo Esophageal Fistula is an abnormal connection between the esophagus and trachea (airway). They fail to develop and separate correctly
- Esophageal stenosis is a narrowing of the esophagus

What is the cause?

- The cause is unknown

What are the symptoms of Esophageal Atresia/Stenosis or Fistula?

- Excessive amniotic fluid might be noted before birth
- Trouble feeding (coughing, gagging and choking during feeding)
- Cyanosis (bluish color to the skin and mucous membranes)
- Wheezing
- Shortness of breath
- This may be a single problem or part of a group of abnormalities

Is there any treatment for Esophageal Atresia?

- Surgery is needed to fix the problem
- The swallowing tube must be connected to the stomach, however if a fistula is connecting the esophagus to the trachea the doctor will have to close the fistula

Support Groups/Resources

- Ea/TEF Family Support Connection
www.eatef.org
- Kennedy Krieger Institute
<http://www.kennedykrieger.org>
443-923-9200
- March of Dimes
www.marchofdimes.com
1-410-546-2241
- Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs
<http://fha.maryland.gov/genetics/bdris.cfm>
1-800-638-8864
- The Parents' Place Of Maryland
www.ppmmd.org
410- 768-9100