

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

Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome

What is Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome?

- Rare heart defect which is present at birth (congenital)
- Condition in which the left side of the heart is very underdeveloped or too small
- The left side of the heart can't effectively pump blood to the body, therefore the right side of the heart tries to pump blood both to the lungs *and* to the rest of the body

What is the cause of Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome?

- It occurs during fetal growth and development but the cause is unknown

Signs and Symptoms

- Grayish blue skin color, especially around lips and fingernails
- Fast and difficult breathing
- Poor feeding
- Cold hands and feet
- Lethargy (tiredness)

How is Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome treated?

- Medication can be used to improve blood flow, but surgical treatment or heart transplant is needed
- Surgical treatment involves a three step surgical procedure to create normal blood flow in and out of the heart which will allow the body to receive the oxygen-rich blood

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
phpa.dhmdh.maryland.gov/genetics/
1-855-535-5655
- The Parents' Place Of Maryland
www.ppmmd.org
1-410-768-9100