

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

Tricuspid Atresia

What is Tricuspid Atresia?

- Heart defect which is present at birth (congenital)
- The condition is one in which the heart valves (tricuspid valve) between two of the heart chambers has not formed or is missing
- The blood flow is blocked and not able to flow properly from the right atrium to the right ventricle which sends blood to the lungs to pick up oxygen.

What is the cause of Tricuspid Atresia?

- The cause is unknown but the valve forms abnormally during fetal development.

Signs and Symptoms

- Bluish skin color, especially around lips and fingernails
- Fast and difficult breathing
- Lethargy (tiredness)
- Poor growth

How is Tricuspid Atresia 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)
- Surgery - the infant will need an artificial shunt to be placed if the heart is not able to pump an adequate amount of blood out to the lungs and to the rest of the body. Subsequent surgeries or procedures may be needed to create improved blood flow to the lungs.

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