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
  php.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics/
  1-855-535-5655

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