What are Congenital Heart Defects?

- Heart Defects are problems with the structure of the heart that are present at birth
- There are numerous Congenital Heart Defects that vary from simple defects to more serious defects.
- The defects can affect different parts of the heart and affect how the heart works

Types of Congenital Heart Defects:

- **Acyanotic**- oxygenated blood flows from the left side of the heart to the right side of the heart and then to the lungs
- **Cyanotic**- de-oxygenated blood flows from the right side of the heart to the left side of the heart through defects

Signs and Symptoms

- Shortness of breath
- Bluish skin color
- Tiredness
- Irritability
- Feeding Problems

What is the cause?

- **Acyanotic Defects**- caused by an opening between the wall of the ventricles creating a Ventricular Septal Defect which is known as VSD or it can be caused by a hole in the wall separating the atria of the heart which is known as Atrial Septal Defect or ASD

List of Acyanotic Defects:

1. **Patent Ductus Arteriosus**- PDA is a defect in which there is an opening between the pulmonary artery and the aorta
2. **Pulmonary Valve Stenosis**- There is a narrowing of the valve between the right ventricle and the pulmonary artery
3. **Aortic Valve Stenosis**- There is the narrowing of the valve between the left ventricle and the aorta
4. **Coarctation of the Aorta**- There is a narrowing in the part of the aorta that supplies blood to the entire body
• **Cyanotic Defects** - Blood that does not contain oxygen flows to all the organs in the body

**List of Cyanotic Defects:**

1. **Tetralogy of Fallot** - Defect in the heart’s structure that is present at birth. It includes (4) specific defects

**Is there any treatment?**

• Pending the heart defect, some may require surgery and some may not require correction

**Support Groups/Resources**

• Congenital Heart Disease Information and Resources
  
  [www.tchin.org/](http://www.tchin.org/)
  1-609-822-1572

• Little Hearts Parental and Child Support Groups
  
  1-866-435-hope

• Kennedy Krieger Institute
  
  [http://www.kennedykrieger.org](http://www.kennedykrieger.org)
  443-923-9200

• March of Dimes
  
  [www.marchofdimes.com](http://www.marchofdimes.com)
  1-410-546-2241

• Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs
  
  [http://fha.maryland.gov/genetics/bdris.cfm](http://fha.maryland.gov/genetics/bdris.cfm)
  1-800-638-8864

• The Parents’ Place Of Maryland
  
  [www.ppmd.org](http://www.ppmd.org)
  410- 768-9100