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.ppmd.org
  410- 768-9100