Rectal/Anal Atresia Fact Sheet

What is Rectal/Anal Atresia?

- It is the absence or closure of the rectum (end of intestine where stool is held) or anus (opening for stool)

What is the cause of Rectal/Anal Atresia?

- The defect is caused by abnormal development of the fetus and there are many forms of rectal/anal atresia that are associated with other birth defects

Signs and Symptoms

- Missing anal opening or anal opening ending in blind pouch
- Inability to pass stool within the first 24-48 hours after birth

Is there any treatment for Anal Rectal Atresia?

- Surgery is needed to reconnect the rectum and anus
Support Groups/Resources

- March of Dimes
  [www.marchofdimes](http://www.marchofdimes)
  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

- VACTERL Association Support Group