



Large Ventricular Septal Defect

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WHAT IS A LARGE VENTRICULAR SEPTAL DEFECT?

Large ventricular septal defect is a congenital heart condition. This means that before you were born there was a problem with the development in the structure of your heart.

Your heart pumps blood to your body and lungs. Your heart's two pumping chambers are called ventricles. Your right and left ventricles are separated by a wall called your ventricular septum. A ventricular septal defect (VSD) is a hole in your ventricular septum. This causes blood to flow from your left ventricle to your right ventricle.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

- Endocarditis
- Physical activity
- Healthy lifestyle
- Pregnancy
- Contraception
- Medicines (including warfarin)

Blood flows from left to right because the pressure in the left side of your heart is usually higher than in your right. If your VSD is large, it means that there is a high flow of blood to your lungs.

This can cause high blood pressure in your pulmonary artery (pulmonary hypertension). Your right ventricle can also become thicker and more muscular (hypertrophied) to cope with the extra pressure.

For over 50 years we've pioneered research that's transformed the lives of people living with heart and circulatory conditions. Our work has been central to the discoveries of vital treatments that are changing the fight against heart disease. But so many people still need our help.

From babies born with life-threatening heart problems to the many Mums, Dads and Grandparents who survive a heart attack and endure the daily battles of heart failure.

Join our fight for every heartbeat in the UK. Every pound raised, minute of your time and donation to our shops will help make a difference to people's lives.

SURGERY

Because of the size of your VSD, you may have needed surgery to close it. The hole may have been stitched together, but usually a patch is used to close the hole.

Or, you may have had a simpler procedure to start with called pulmonary artery banding. This involved placing a tight band around your pulmonary artery, narrowing it to reduce the high blood flow to your lungs.

This type of procedure was usually done if there were complications which made it better to wait until you were older before having surgery to close your VSD. Once your VSD was surgically closed the band will have been removed from your pulmonary artery.

Most young people who have had their VSD repaired go on to lead active lives. You should continue to have check-ups in a cardiac clinic throughout your life.

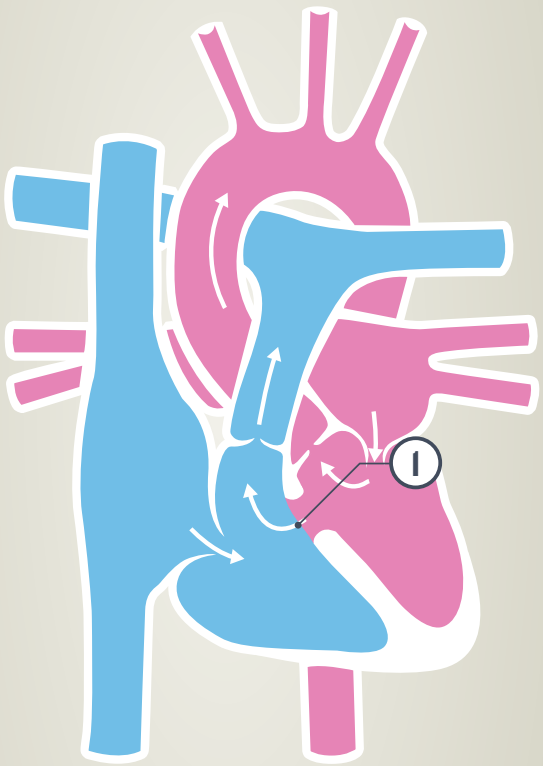
ENDOCARDITIS

To reduce your risk of getting endocarditis:

- Keep your teeth and mouth clean and have regular check-ups with a dentist
- Avoid body piercing and tattooing
- Never inject recreational drugs

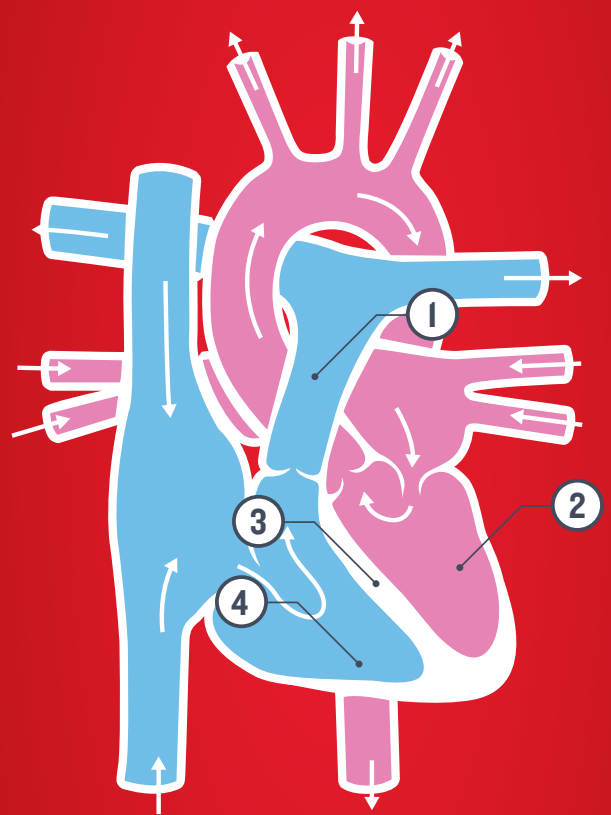
YOUR HEART

Find out more about your heart:
yheart.net / chfed.org.uk / thesf.org.uk



① ventricular septal defect.

THE HEART



① main pulmonary artery
② left ventricle
③ ventricular septum
④ right ventricle.