

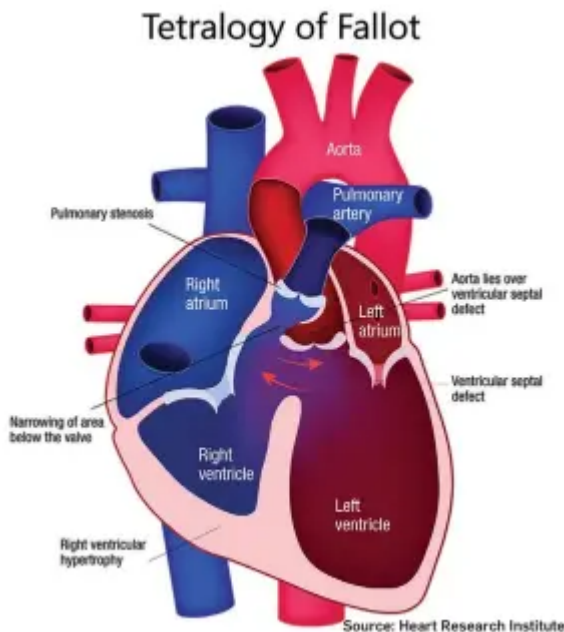
- Birth defects / Heart diseases

Types of congenital heart disease

If you're worried your baby has congenital heart disease, speak to a health-care professional.

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Congenital heart disease is a fault or problem with the heart that's there from birth. This means it develops in the womb, before a baby is born.



There are many different types of congenital heart disease. The most common types include:

- defects – a hole between two of the heart's chambers septal
- coarctation of the aorta – narrowing of the body's main artery of the body's main artery
- pulmonary valve stenosis – narrowing of the pulmonary valve.

You may not know what type of congenital heart disease you have, especially if you were diagnosed before you were born, or shortly after.

Speak to your doctor about your diagnosis, how best to manage your condition and live well.

Causes of congenital heart disease

In most cases, we don't know why the heart has not developed normally. Research is looking at the causes of congenital heart disease.

You may have an increased risk of congenital heart disease if:

- you have a family history of congenital heart disease
- your mum or birth parent had diabetes when they were pregnant

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- your mum or birth parent took certain medicines when they were pregnant
- smoking and drinking during pregnancy
- infections like German measles (Rubella) during pregnancy
- your mum or birth parent had or has lupus.

If you're pregnant and worried about any medicine you're taking, speak to your doctor or midwife.

Symptoms of disease

Most people with congenital heart disease are diagnosed before they're born. But some people will be diagnosed when they're a baby, child or adult.

You may not have any symptoms, but if you do it could include:

- fast heartbeat
- tiredness

congenital heart

- shortness of breath
- a blue colour to your skin or lips.

Babies with congenital heart disease may also have trouble feeding. If you're worried your baby has congenital heart disease, speak to a healthcare professional.