

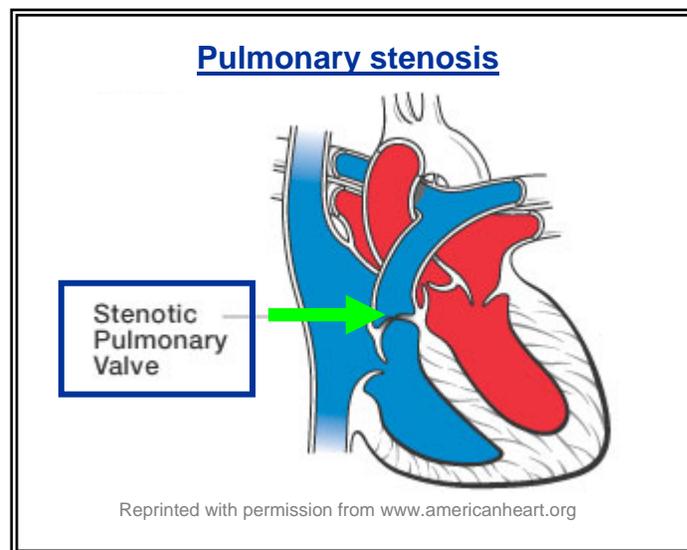
Pulmonary Stenosis (PS)

What is pulmonary stenosis?

Pulmonary stenosis is a narrowing of the **pulmonary valve** (opening between the right ventricle of the heart and the lungs). Normally, the pulmonary valve allows oxygen-poor blood to flow into the lungs, where it becomes oxygen-rich. Pulmonary **stenosis** (narrowing) causes the heart to work harder to pump blood through the narrow opening, which can lead to enlargement of the **right ventricle** (lower chamber of the heart).

The pulmonary valve is normally divided into three **leaflets** (sections). Children with pulmonary stenosis may have fused leaflets or fewer leaflets than expected.

Approximately 5 – 10% of children with a congenital (present at birth) heart defect have pulmonary stenosis. Pulmonary stenosis can also be part of a **complex heart defect** (more than one heart defect is present).



What causes pulmonary stenosis?

Currently, the exact cause of pulmonary stenosis is not known. Heredity likely plays a role in the development of all heart defects, meaning that if someone had a congenital heart defect, he or she has an increased chance of having a child with a heart defect.

How is pulmonary stenosis treated?

Depending on the severity of the stenosis, surgery may be required to correct the defect. Your child's doctor(s) will discuss appropriate treatment options with you.

For more information

American Heart Association - <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=11105>

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center's Heart Center Encyclopedia – <http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/health/heart-encyclopedia/default.htm>

MedlinePlus - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/congenitalheartdefects.html>

National Heart Lung and Blood Institute - http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/dci/Diseases/chd/chd_what.html

Sources: Cincinnati Children's Hospital, American Heart Association