

Aortopulmonary Window

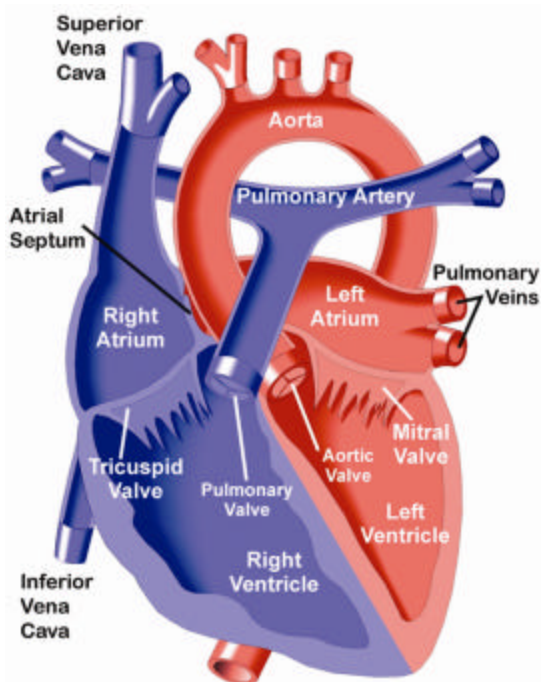
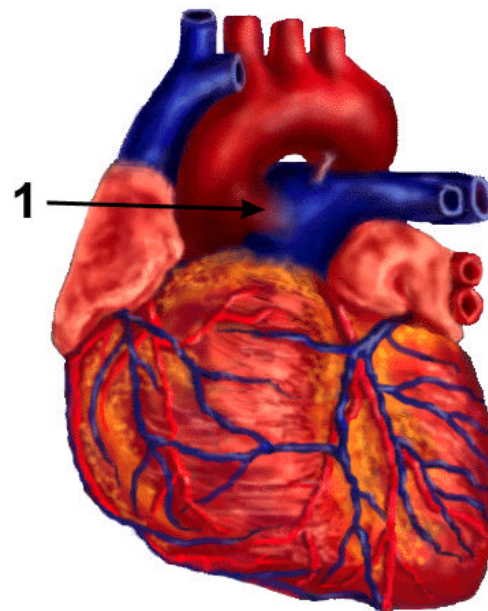
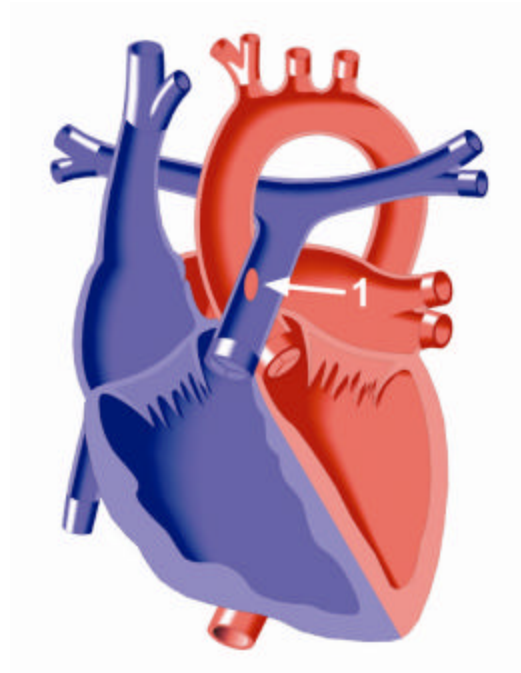
Aortopulmonary Window is a rare congenital heart defect in which there is a connection (window) between the aorta and the main pulmonary artery. This opening allows oxygenated blood to pass, or shunt, from the aorta into the pulmonary artery.

Aortopulmonary Window, which affects males and females equally, can occur as an isolated defect, or with other defects or more complex heart diseases.

The movement of blood from the aorta into the pulmonary artery results in excessive blood flow to the lungs, causing high pulmonary blood pressure. The larger the hole, the greater the volume of blood shunted and the more severe the symptoms.

Babies with Aortopulmonary Window generally do not feed well and tire easily and they may develop congestive heart failure or other complications. Therefore, this defect should be corrected as soon as possible once the diagnosis has been made.

If not diagnosed soon enough, some children can develop sustained high pulmonary blood pressure (pulmonary hypertension) secondary to changes in growth of the pulmonary arteries. This severe result of an Aortopulmonary Window can render some children inoperable.



Above:

1. A large defect between the ascending aorta and the main pulmonary artery.

Left: Normal Heart