

Atrioventricular Septal Defect - Complete

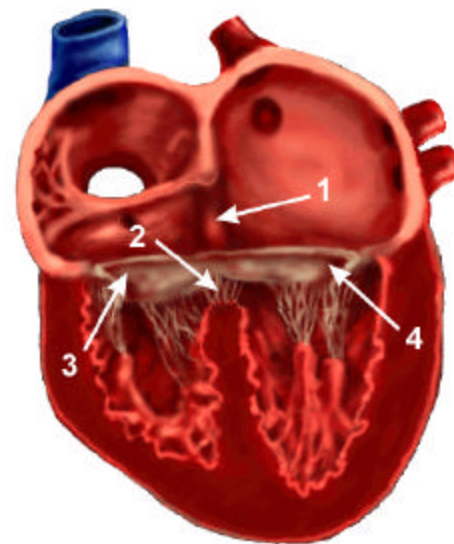
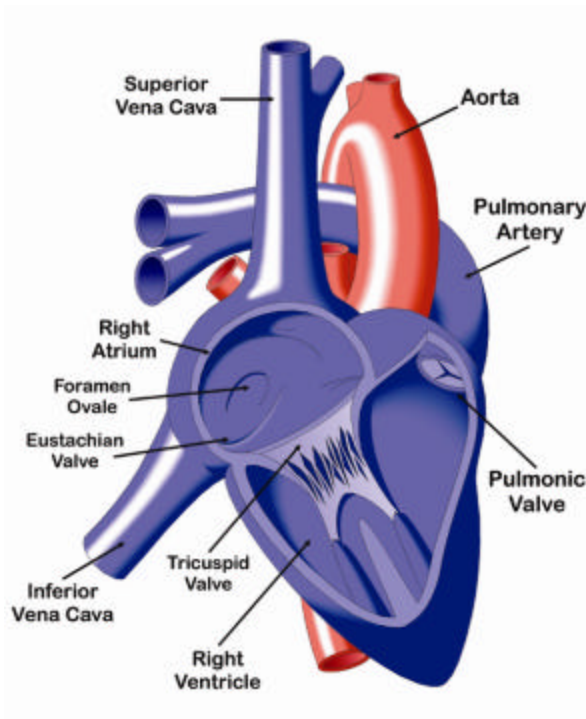
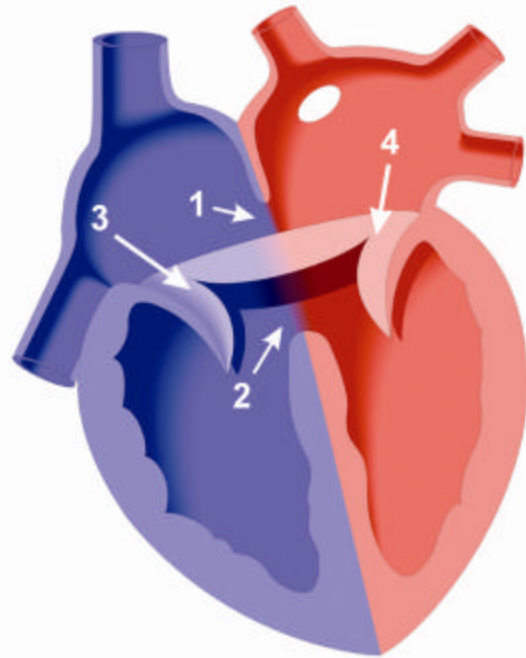
Atrioventricular Canal Defect is actually a combination of defects, involving malformations of the tricuspid and mitral valves. In some cases, the mitral and tricuspid valves are connected, forming a single opening. In addition to valvular defects, defects (in the form of holes) often occur in both the ventricular septum (VSD) and the atrial septum (ASD).

Atrioventricular Canal Defect, which often occurs in conjunction with Down Syndrome, allows the blood to move freely between the four chambers of the heart.

With this physiology, two different scenarios can occur. In some infants, resistance in the pulmonary arteries remains high. Therefore, even though there are large defects in the heart that allow the mixing of blood, the infants will have very little murmur and no symptoms.

In the other scenario, resistance in the lung arteries falls normally after birth. This allows an excess of blood to pass to the lungs and can cause heart failure, rapid breathing, and poor feeding.

This defect almost invariably requires surgical correction within a few months after birth.



Above:

1. Atrial septal defect, primus type.
 2. Inlet (type III) ventricular septal defect.
 3. Cleft and deformity of tricuspid valve.
 4. Cleft and deformity of mitral valve.
- Aorta and pulmonary arteries removed for clarity.

Left: Normal Heart