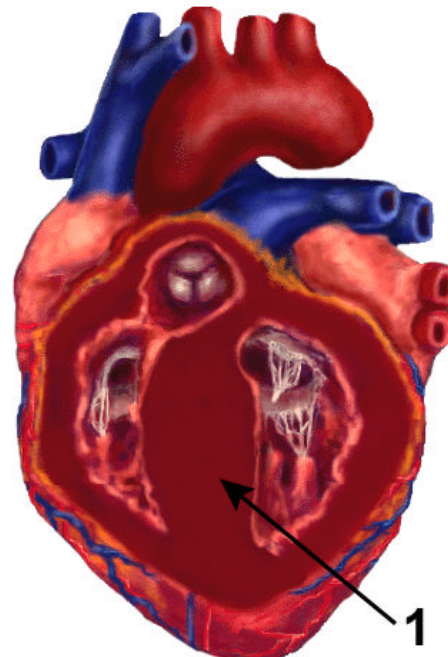
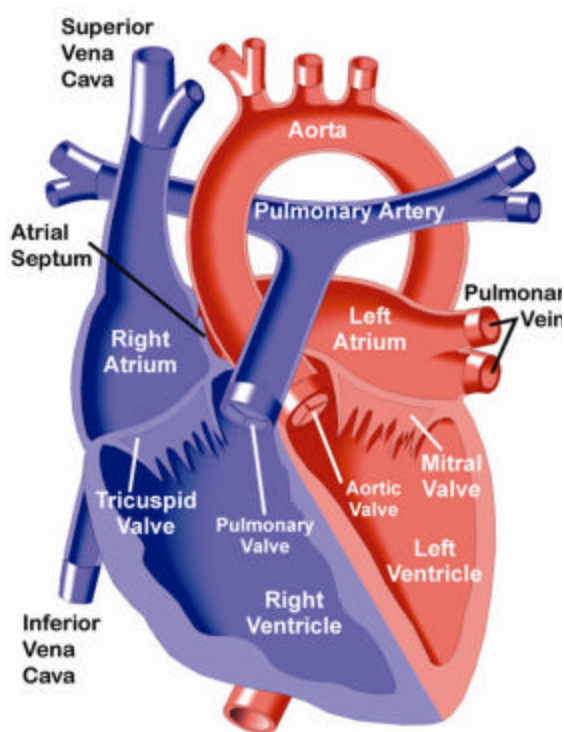
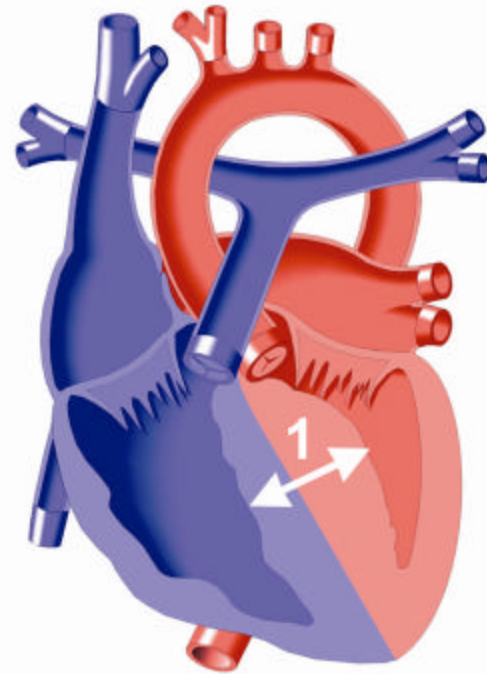


# Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

In this defect, the muscle wall that separates the right and left ventricles (ventricular septum), is much thicker than normal. In some cases, the ventricular septum may be as much as 4 times the normal thickness. This is a rare defect that may run in families and affects girls and boys equally.

The enlarged ventricular septum may obstruct the outlets to the aorta and/or pulmonary artery (PA), causing a heart murmur. This is known as Obstructive Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. However, there is no obstruction and therefore no murmur in the majority of cases.

Many patients experience no symptoms except during periods of exertion, when chest pain and shortness of breath may occur. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy may also cause fainting spells, arrhythmia (irregular heart beat), heart failure, or even death. Patients with severe cases are at risk of dying suddenly from abnormal heart rhythms.



**Above:**  
1. Excessive septal hypertrophy.

**Left:** Normal Heart