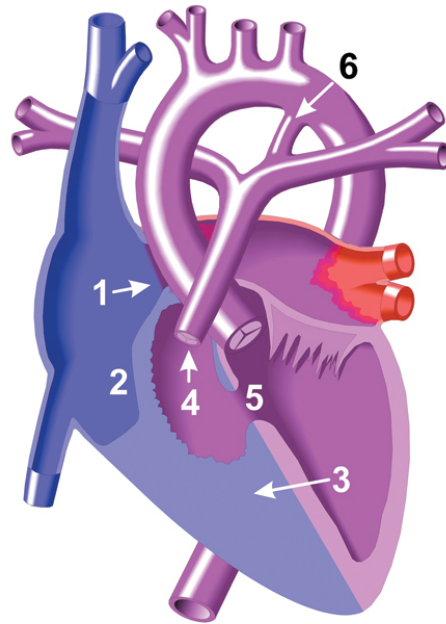


Single Ventricle

Single Ventricle refers to a group of congenital heart defects in which the heart functionally has only one pumping chamber. In the normal heart, there are two pumping chambers, the right and left ventricles.

In Single Ventricle, there is complete mixing of the blood returning from the body with blood returning from the lungs. Therefore, blood leaving the heart through the pulmonary artery will have basically the same oxygen content as that leaving the heart through the aorta on its way to the body.

In the example defect shown (Tricuspid Atresia), oxygen reaches the body tissues immediately after birth because of the patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) as well as any flow that can cross the often narrowed pulmonary artery. When the PDA closes, the infant can become cyanotic ("blue"), with insufficient blood flow to the lungs and inadequate oxygen supply to the body.



Above and Below: Tricuspid Atresia

1. Atrial septal defect
2. Atretic tricuspid valve
3. Hypoplastic right ventricle.
4. Pulmonary stenosis
5. Ventricular septal defect.
6. Patent ductus arteriosus

Left: Normal Heart

