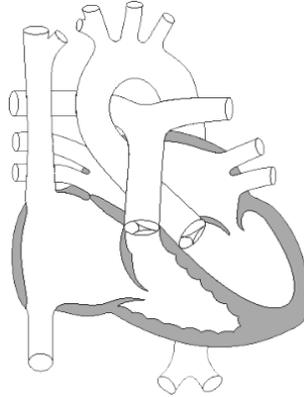


Pulmonary Hypertension



What is Pulmonary Hypertension?

Pulmonary hypertension is an elevated blood pressure in the lungs. Before we are born the blood pressure of our lungs and our body is roughly the same. After birth the lung blood pressure should decrease and with some time it should be about 1/4 to 1/5 of the body's pressure. For example if your body's blood pressure is 120/80 your lung's blood pressure should be 25/10. It may take several days and sometimes weeks for a newborn baby's lung blood pressure to decrease to normal. This is typically diagnosed after a murmur (extra sound from the heart) is heard and an Echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart) is performed. Since murmurs can be heard in normal hearts it is more important that you know what was found on Echocardiogram, rather than there is a murmur.

What does the degree of the Pulmonary Hypertension mean?

We rate pulmonary hypertension by how close it is to the body's pressure. Higher lung blood pressures can make the right-side of the heart work harder since it is connected to the lungs. We will monitor for improvement by Echocardiogram.

What is the treatment of Pulmonary Hypertension?

The best treatment is usually time. The lung blood pressure naturally decreases in newborns and in most it doesn't cause serious issues. If pulmonary hypertension is persisting after a few weeks, we may want to do more testing to figure out why this is not improving.

What are signs I should be aware of for my baby?

Feeding is like exercise for a baby and when the heart and lungs are working harder the baby will have trouble feeding. If you see any of these signs you should contact your Cardiologist:

- Finishing a feed takes longer than before (not due to falling asleep during the feed)
- Fast and deep breathing during a feed
- Sweating during a feed
- Poor weight gain (keep in mind babies lose some weight during the first 1-2 weeks of life)

When should I follow-up?

Your Provider or Hospital should schedule your appointment and provide you with the information. You may also contact our office for information. If you call our office keep in mind newborns may be listed under the mother's name.

What if I have more questions?

You may call our office for a sooner appointment or in the hospital notify your Provider that you would like to speak with Cardiology.

For information on what to expect at your appointment or more information about our practice we invite you to check out our website

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