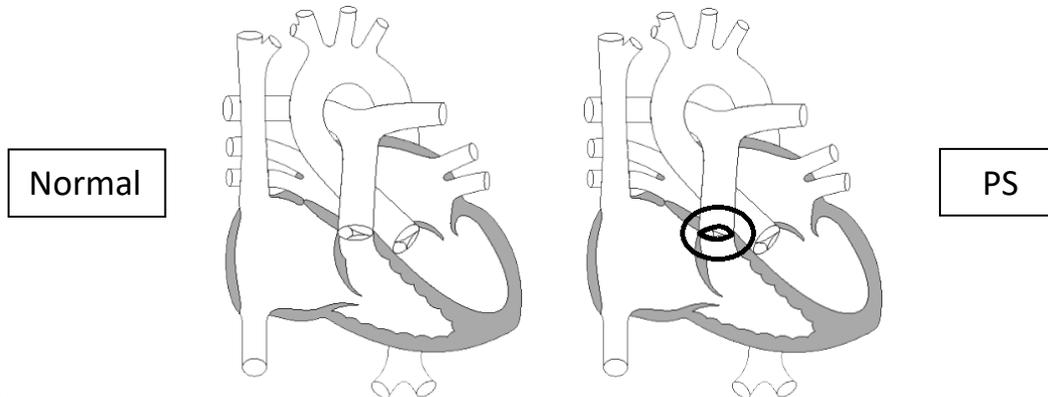


## Pulmonary Stenosis (PS)



### What is PS?

PS is a narrowing in the main blood vessel that connects the heart to the lungs (pulmonary artery). The narrowing is most often of the door (valve) of this blood vessel, but occasionally can occur above or below the valve. About 1/3 of infants will get better, 1/3 will get worse, and 1/3 will stay the same. Significant change usually occurs in the first 3-6 months of life. This is often 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 PS mean?

Degrees are rated trivial, mild, moderate, and severe. At higher degrees, the heart works harder to push blood through the narrowing and to the lungs. Changes in degree happen slowly over the course of weeks to months. We will monitor for change by Echocardiogram.

### What is the treatment of PS?

Treatment is only needed if PS is severe. Only monitoring is needed if the degree is less than severe. For severe PS treatment is a procedure called a cardiac catheterization which uses very small tubes (catheters) that travel from a blood vessel in the leg up to the heart. We then inflate a small balloon inside the narrowing which decreases the severity. In most cases only one treatment is needed but life-long monitoring for possible worsening is recommended.

### 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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