

HYPOPLASTIC LEFT HEART SYNDROME

Definition

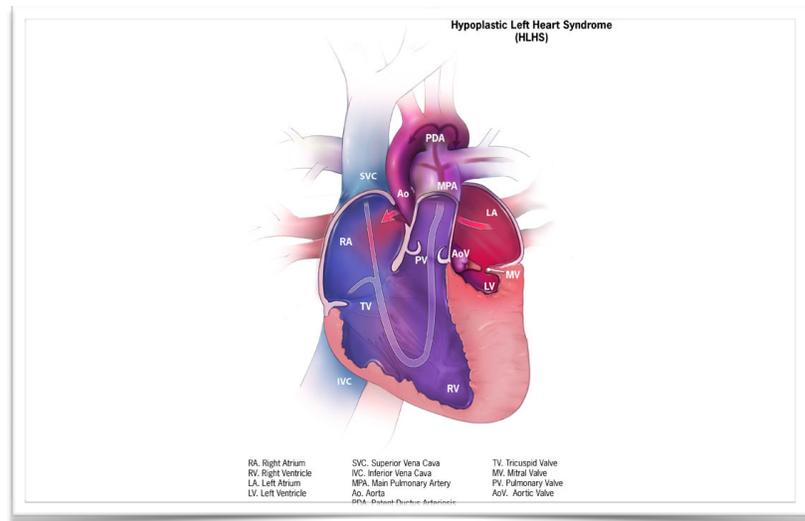
This defect is where the left side of the heart doesn't form correctly. It's also is a birth defect that affects normal blood flow through the heart.

How many have it and the cause of it.

About 960 babies are born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome each year, and it's caused by changes in their genes or chromosomes, or by what the mother is affected by during pregnancy, and there is no cure for it.

Symptoms

- ❖ Problems breathing, Pounding heart. Weak pulse, or Ashen or bluish skin color.



What happens to the heart

The ascending portion of the aorta and the left ventricle are undeveloped or too small. The mitral valves and the aortic valve are not formed and very small. The left side of the heart can not pump oxygen rich blood to the body properly. During the first few days of life for a baby with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, the oxygen-rich blood bypasses the poorly functioning left side of the heart through the patent ductus arteriosus and the patent foramen ovale. The opening in the heart close making it hard for oxygen-rich blood to get to the rest of the body. So then the right side of the heart is doing all the work, pumping all the blood to the lungs and the rest of the body.

What else happens?



Complications and death and survival

Blockage of the artificial shunt, chronic diarrhea, fluid in the abdomen and lungs, heart failure, irregular fast heart rhythms, strokes and other nervous system complications, sudden death.

If left untreated, hypoplastic left heart syndrome is fatal. Survival rates for the staged repair continue to rise as surgery techniques and care after surgery improve. Survival after the first stage is more than 75%.

❖ There is life long problems like the person may need a heart transplant, those who have heart transplant will need medicine for the rest of their lives. will need regular follow-up visits with a cardiologist (a heart doctor) to monitor their progress. The child's outcome after surgery depends on the size and function of the right ventricle.

