18/mhs07/014

Congenital heart disease, or a congenital heart defect, is a heart abnormality present at birth. The problem can affect:

* the heart walls
* the heart valves
* the blood vessels
* **Hole in the Heart (Septal Defect)**
* This means you’re born with a hole in the wall, or septum, that separates the left and right sides of your heart. The hole lets [blood](http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/rm-quiz-blood-basics) from the two sides mix.
* **Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)**
* An ASD is a hole in the wall between the upper chambers, or the right and left atria, of your heart. A hole here lets blood from the left atrium mix with blood in the right atrium.
* Some ASDs close on their own. Your doctor may need to repair a medium or large ASD with open-heart surgery or another procedure.
* He might seal the hole with a minimally invasive catheter procedure. He inserts a small tube, or catheter, in your blood vessel all the way to your heart. Then he can cover the hole with a variety of devices.

## Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD)

* A [VSD](http://www.webmd.com/heart-disease/ventricular-septal-defects) is a hole in the part of your septum that separates your heart’s lower chambers, or ventricles. If you have a VSD, blood gets pumped back to your [lungs](http://www.webmd.com/lung/picture-of-the-lungs) instead of to your body.
* A small VSD may also close on its own. But if yours is larger, you may need surgery to repair it.

## Complete Atrioventricular Canal Defect (CAVC)

* This is the most serious septal defect. It’s when you have a hole in your heart that affects all four chambers.
* A CAVC prevents oxygen-rich blood from going to the right places in your body. Your doctor can repair it with patches. But some people need more than one surgery to treat it.

## Valve Defects

Valves control the flow of blood through your heart’s ventricles and [arteries](http://www.webmd.com/heart/picture-of-the-arteries). And some minor heart defects can involve the valves, including:

**Stenosis.** When your valves become narrow or stiff, and won’t open or allow blood to pass easily.

**Regurgitation.** Your valves don’t close tightly, which lets your blood leak backward through them.

**Atresia.** This happens when your valve isn't formed right or has no opening to let your blood pass through. It causes more complicated heart problems.

**Ebstein’s anomaly.** This is a defect in another heart valve, the tricuspid valve, which may keep it from closing tightly. Babies who have Ebstein’s also often have an atrial septal defect (ASD).