

Care for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Diseases

*"In pursuit
of excellence,
the patient
comes first."*

Call 216/445-5015 or 800/223-2273, ext. 55015, during regular business hours.

After hours, call 216/444-KIDS (5437) or 800/223-2273, ext. 45437.

Make an online appointment at www.clevelandclinic.org.

(Outside the United States, contact the Cleveland Clinic International Center at 216/444-6404 or icwebmail@ccf.org.)

The Children's Hospital: Inspiring Potential

The Children's Hospital at The Cleveland Clinic has one goal: restoring health to children and adolescents so they may realize their full potential. Since its doors opened in 1921, The Cleveland Clinic routinely has been treating pediatric patients, including those with heart defects. In fact, the first pediatric heart transplantation in Ohio was performed here.

Today, The Children's Hospital includes a team of the world's most highly skilled pediatric and congenital heart specialists among its staff of more than 100 pediatricians and pediatric specialists.

Pediatric and Congenital Heart Center

According to the American Heart Association, about 40,000 children are born with heart defects in the United States each year. With an outstanding reputation for successfully handling the most complex cases, the hospital's Center for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Diseases serves as a worldwide referral and second opinion center for patients of all ages with pediatric and congenital heart disease (PCHD).

Heart Center Team: Vast Experience and Excellent Outcomes

The heart center team consists of caring physicians, anesthesiologists and cardiac nurses who are among the most highly trained and experienced in the world. The team also includes the referring physician, the patient's family, allied health professionals, social workers and child life specialists.

Each year, our physicians and surgeons evaluate more than 6,000 patients of all ages with pediatric and congenital heart disease. Some PCHD may be managed with medication. If intervention is needed, our pediatric cardiologists can repair certain heart defects in the cardiac catheterization laboratory using coils, stents and implantable devices. These defects may be repaired through small incisions in the groin, thus eliminating the need for open-heart surgery. Each year, our cardiologists perform more than 600 catheterizations, one-third of which typically are performed on adults.

Our surgeons manage all forms of congenital and acquired heart defects and routinely perform complex surgeries not performed elsewhere. Our success rates, including those for repairing defects in newborns, are high, and our complication and mortality rates are low. For example, our overall 10-year mortality rate for more than 4,000 surgeries is 1.6%.

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Heart Failure/Transplantation Services

The center's heart failure/transplantation team assesses and treats children with heart failure. Alternatives to heart transplantation, such as a mechanical heart, may offer lifesaving treatment or act as a bridge to transplantation.

Our center's heart transplantation success rate ranks higher than the national average. Additionally, the Cleveland Clinic's Heart Transplant Program is one of only three centers worldwide that has performed over 1,000 transplants.

Lifetime Care for Children and Adults

Adults with complex congenital heart defects require expert care. Ours is one of just a few centers in Ohio and the nation dedicated to the lifelong care of PCHD patients. These patients are best monitored and treated by physicians and surgeons specially trained in the management of congenital cardiac problems.

Each year, the center assesses more than 400 adults with PCHD. Since 1993, we have performed more than 500 surgeries on adult patients with a mortality rate of 0.9%.

Leaders in Research, Innovation

Our center's cardiac surgeons developed and perfected the double-switch operation for complex transposition of the great arteries. Our cardiologists pioneered the research that led to the development of devices to close holes between the chambers of the heart. Our surgeons and cardiologists are frequently invited to present their surgical and invasive techniques to their colleagues nationally and worldwide. Our physician investigators are sponsored by corporate and government organizations with the goal of advancing treatment for patients with PCHD.

The Value of a Multispecialty Center

Because heart defects are relatively rare, it is crucial to choose a multispecialty medical center with a highly skilled and experienced medical team. At The Cleveland Clinic, our physicians can diagnose heart defects and determine management strategies before your child is even born.

Complicated and high-risk pregnancies are expertly managed within our Level III perinatal center, and critically ill newborns, infants and children — particularly those suffering from PCHD — receive the highest level of care in our 14-bed pediatric intensive care unit. Unlike most other PICUs, the unit at The Children's Hospital has attending physician coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Experience counts: our PICU has among the best documented outcomes in the nation.