

# Congenital Heart Disease

## Congenital Heart Disease

Fetal heart disease involves an abnormality of the heart, whether it be a structural defect (also known as congenital heart disease), a problem with the fetal heart beat or a functional problem with the heart squeeze or filling.

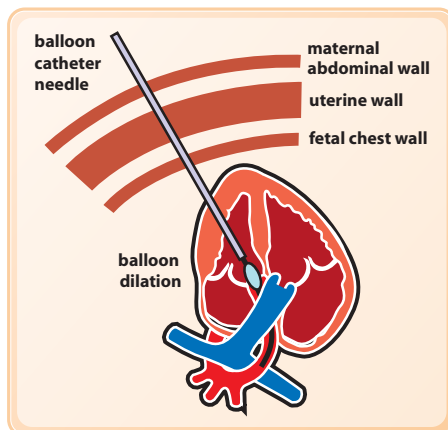
Most common heart defects, such as holes between the chambers (atrial septal defect, ventricular septal defect) and even more complex conditions, can be successfully managed after birth. There are also a few abnormalities (such as narrowing of a valve) that can interfere with development of the pumping chambers, which can be very difficult to fix after birth.

## Prenatal Diagnosis

Accurate prenatal diagnosis by an experienced fetal echocardiographer and cardiologist is essential. In most cases of congenital heart disease, the diagnosis is confirmed by our exam and postnatal management at an appropriate referral center will improve outcome.

## Fetal Intervention

Fetuses with aortic or pulmonary stenosis and signs of developing hypoplastic left or right heart syndrome may be candidates for fetal intervention. Fetuses early in gestation (before 28 weeks) who have not already developed severe damage to the ventricular wall with underdevelopment of the heart on the side of the obstruction, may benefit from intervention to dilate the obstruction.



### Details of the fetal procedure:

- Regional or general anesthesia
- Ultrasound guidance
- 19-gauge Cannula/Needle
- Percutaneous maternal approach
- Guidewire manipulated across atretic/stenotic valve
- Coronary balloon inflated to dilate valve

An obstructed valve can be dilated using a balloon catheter placed into the fetal heart via a percutaneous maternal approach under ultrasound guidance. In some cases a maternal mini-laparotomy is needed. We are currently developing these techniques to correct fetal heart defects such as aortic stenosis or pulmonary stenosis.



### How to Make an Appointment

Patients in the San Francisco Bay Area who would like to schedule an appointment at our UCSF Clinic, can visit our website and use our in-person appointment request form or call us at **1-800-RX-FETUS**

### Online Patient Program

Patients outside the San Francisco Bay Area are encouraged to use our online patient program. To find out more about our Online Patient Program please visit our web site at: <http://fetus.ucsfmedicalcenter.org>

### Fetal Treatment Center

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**KIDS 'N' MOMS**  
foundation

The Fetal Treatment Center's website and *Inside* online patient program wouldn't be possible without the generous financial support of the Kids 'n' Mom's Foundation. The Foundation also supports continuing research in fetal treatment. To find out more about the Kids 'n' Mom's Foundation and how you can donate please visit <http://kidsnmoms.org>

