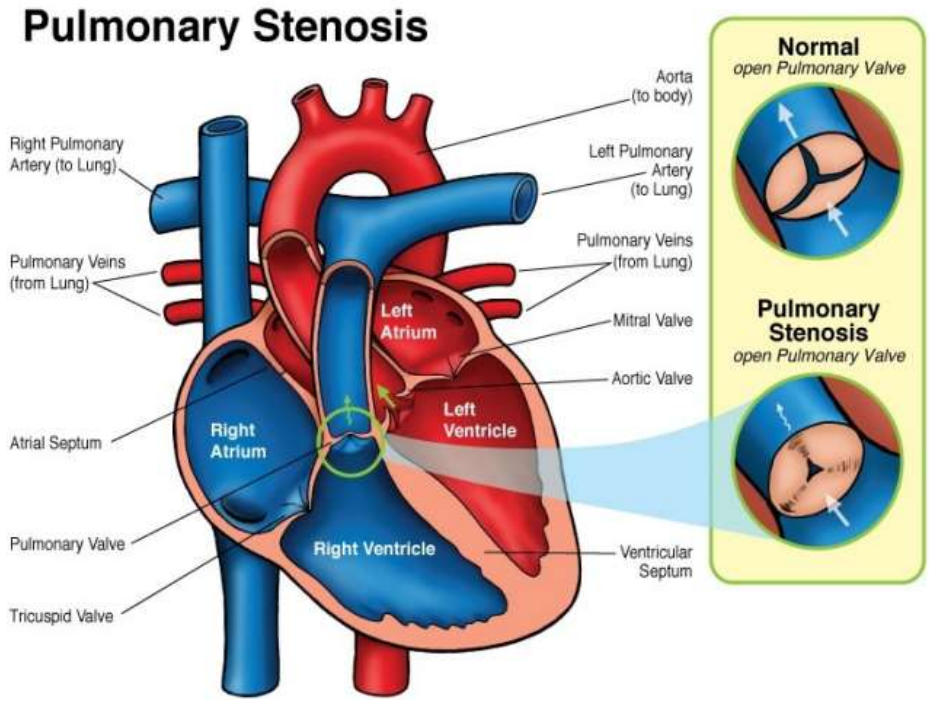


Pulmonary Stenosis

Definition:

The pulmonary valve is a valve that is located between the right ventricle and the pulmonary artery. When it opens, blood is pumped into the lungs via the pulmonary artery. Pulmonary stenosis is when the valve is narrowed causing the right ventricle to pump blood harder in order to reach the pulmonary artery.

What causes it?

The cause is usually unknown. It is also known to occur with other heart defects.

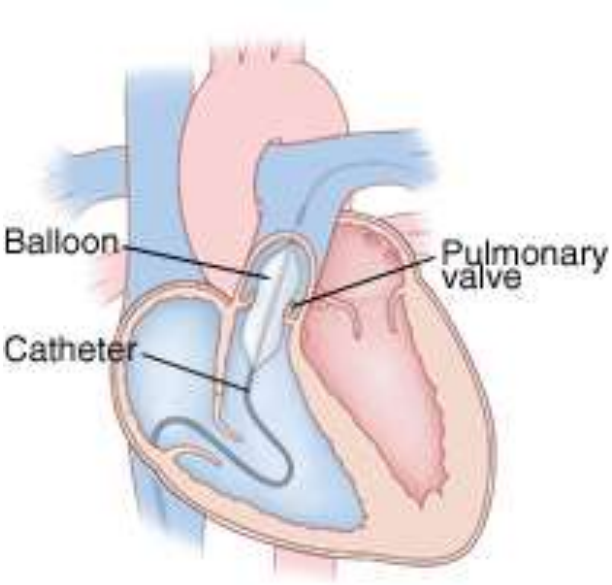
How does it affect the heart?

In a child with PS, the pressure in the right ventricle will be much higher as it needs to pump harder to get blood across. Over time this will cause exhaustion and damage to the overworked heart muscle.

How does it affect your child?

If the stenosis is severe enough, the baby will be blue as there is not enough blood reaching the lungs to get oxygenated. Otherwise, it is not known to cause symptoms and can be hidden until older age.

Management options:



Treatment will be needed when the pressure in the right ventricle becomes very high (even if there are no symptoms). The options can vary from relieving the narrowing using by a balloon valvuloplasty (a catheter is introduced to the pulmonary artery with a balloon that can widen the narrowing), or surgery that can be done to repair or replace the valve.

What activities can your child do?

If mild, or relieved by surgery or catheterization, no limiting of physical activity is needed.

Follow up in the future:

Long term outlook is great after successful surgery or catheterization and usually, medication might not be necessary. Your pediatric cardiologist will examine the child periodically to see if the narrowing returns or if there are any problems (which are rare)

Children may need to receive antibiotics before any surgical or dental procedures to prevent infective endocarditis.