Your Baby’s Heart Murmur

Your baby has a heart murmur. This means that an extra noise can be heard when listening to your baby’s heart with a stethoscope. There are different causes of heart murmurs.

Your baby has a:

☐ **Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD)**
A VSD is a hole in the muscular wall that separates one side of the heart from the other; in the lower chambers of the heart, the ventricles. Because of the hole, when the heart muscle squeezes, blood is pushed through the hole to the other side of the heart, making a noise.

Most VSDs close on their own during the first year, but occasionally they remain open, and if they are very large may need a surgery to patch the hole.

☐ **Patent ductus areteriosus (PDA)**
When a baby is in the uterus and the mother breathes, oxygen passes through her blood to the baby. At this time there is a tiny blood vessel outside of the heart that allows the blood to detour past the lungs since the baby gets oxygen from the mom, not by breathing.

When a baby is born, he begins to cry and starts to get oxygen from his lungs. When this happens the little detour blood vessel closes.

In some babies this detour doesn’t close all the way, so a little bit of blood still passes through it, causing a murmur.

Most of the time the detour blood vessel closes by itself. If it does not close and then a small clip is placed across the vessel to seal it shut. This is done by a small surgery that is outside the heart, not heart surgery.

☐ **Other**

Your baby needs to have his/her heart murmur checked by:

☐ Your baby’s doctor

☐ Rady Children’s Specialists: Division of Cardiology
  8001 Frost St, Entrance 9, San Diego, CA 92123
  Office: (858) 966-5855

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