

Different Types of Heart Valve Diseases

Your heart valves control blood flow through and out your heart. If your heart valves are not working correctly, they may not open or close properly and can interfere with the flow of blood. Learn more about the different types of heart valve problems.

Atresia

Atresia is a heart condition that may be present at birth. It occurs when **a heart valve does not have an opening**. Instead, solid tissue forms between the chambers of the heart and blocks the flow of blood. The main forms of heart valve atresia are:



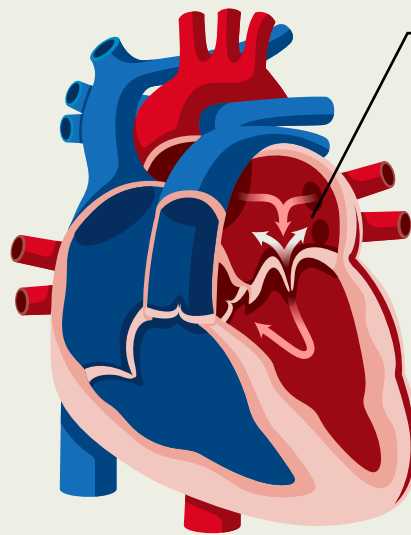
PULMONARY ATRESIA
Blood is unable to flow from your heart to the lungs through the pulmonary artery.



TRICUSPID ATRESIA
Blood is unable to flow from your right atrium to the right ventricle.

Did You Know?

Valve leaflets, or flaps, open and close once during each heartbeat. Your leaflets function as one-way inlets for blood coming into your ventricle and one-way outlets for blood leaving your ventricle.



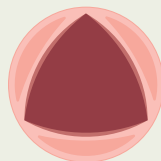
Aortic Regurgitation

When **a valve's leaflets are unable to close completely**, the valve itself can become "leaky". This allows blood to backwash down through the valve instead of flowing forward through the heart or into an artery. Regurgitation can happen if valve flaps are not the right size or shape, or if the valve opening is stretched. You may be born with heart valve regurgitation or develop it over time.

Aortic Stenosis

Aortic stenosis is the term for **a valve that is narrowed and unable to fully open**. Valve stenosis can limit the blood flow through your valve, which may result in a "back-up" of blood behind the valve, causing your heart to pump inefficiently or building up pressure in your lungs.

Normal Aortic Valve

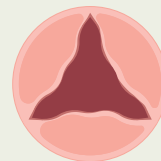


Open



Closed

Aortic Valve Stenosis



Open



Closed

Heart valve disease is very treatable with early diagnosis.

Visit heartvalvevoice-us.org to learn more.