



Common Truncus/Truncus Arteriosus or TA

Truncus arteriosus (TA) ('trəŋ-kəs är-tir-ē-ō-səs), also called common truncus, is a rare congenital heart defect (the baby is born with it) in which a single shared tube for carrying blood comes out of the heart, instead of the usual two separate ones. In the normal heart, one tube, the aorta, comes out of the left side of the heart and takes blood to the body. The other tube, the pulmonary artery, comes out of the right side of the heart to take blood to the lungs to get oxygen. Having TA means that oxygen-poor blood that should go to the lungs and oxygen-rich blood that should go to the rest of the body are mixed together. In babies with TA, there is also usually a hole between the two lower chambers of the heart known as a ventricular septal defect. Truncus arteriosus occurs in less than one out of every 10,000 live births. It can occur by itself or as part of certain genetic disorders. There are about 300 cases of truncus arteriosus per year in the United States. To learn more about TA, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website tinyurl.com/y7ye86b8.

Resources for families

Northwest support resources

- Children's Heart Foundation (OR)
tinyurl.com/yclkmhgr
- Pediatric Congenital Heart Assoc. (WA)
tinyurl.com/yba3yhlw
- Mended Little Hearts - Portland [Facebook]
tinyurl.com/y9zskzl1

National/international/online resources

- American Heart Association (AHA) Support Network for Congenital Heart Defects (CHD)
tinyurl.com/y5bxh3z3
- Mended Hearts
tinyurl.com/7wppot4
- Little Hearts - Parent Matching Program
tinyurl.com/y7wuh4yc
- Children's Heart Foundation (CHF)
tinyurl.com/ptkqdj
- Congenital Heart Info Network [Facebook]
tinyurl.com/y8oxl67t

Information for you and your care team

- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Truncus Arteriosus
tinyurl.com/y8hc8caw

- AHA - Truncus Arteriosus fact sheet [PDF]
tinyurl.com/ydaolngs
- AHA - Fact sheets and other tools
tinyurl.com/kex96bk
- AHA - Portable medical info [PDF]
tinyurl.com/ydye5u4s
- NIH Library of Medicine
tinyurl.com/aot8rx

Family stories

- AHA Family Stories
tinyurl.com/y8j578ny
- Little Hearts Stories of Hope
tinyurl.com/y8cze7em

Clinical trial information

- Children and Clinical Studies
tinyurl.com/y75s4twm
- Find an approved clinical trial
tinyurl.com/zp3jesq

Insurance information and help

- Getting insurance for children (OR)
tinyurl.com/ydfaaey
- Understand your health insurance
tinyurl.com/y46h8nvx

- Learn about coverage
tinyurl.com/y4639rz6
- Road map to health
tinyurl.com/yysc6kv7
- General/Oregon Health Plan Questions: 855-323-6744

Other resources

- CHF - *It's My Heart* - free resource book
tinyurl.com/ybyp9goh
- AHA Web Booklet - *If Your Child Has a Congenital Heart Defect*
tinyurl.com/ycgu5mzw
- Merry Heart Children's Camp
tinyurl.com/yaml6cma
- Summer camps for kids with CHD (outside OR)
tinyurl.com/y9awy2gy
- NIH - Miscellaneous tip sheets for children, teens and families
tinyurl.com/y86ofx4e
- CDC - Five Things you Need to Know about CHD [PDF]
tinyurl.com/yavg6fn2