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Congenital heart disease treatment list

Heart blockage is a serious medical condition that can lead to death. Keep reading to learn about the signs and symptoms of heart blockage, and what to do if you are experiencing them.

What Is a Heart Blockage?Your heart has electrical currents running through it. When you experience a heart block, this electrical system is negatively impacted and results in a slow heartbeat. Your heart may even quit beating for up to 20 seconds at a time. There is always an underlying condition behind a heart block. This is why physicians don't treat the heart block. Instead, they pinpoint the underlying condition and treat that.

A heart block can come in three different forms:First-degree Second-degree Third-degree/complete heart block

Symptoms of a Heart BlockIf you're experiencing a heart block, you will likely notice one or more of the following symptoms:Slow heartbeat Irregular heartbeat Shortness of breath Difficulty doing exercise Light-headedness Fainting Discomfort in the chest

If you notice any of the symptoms listed above, it is important to tell your doctor. You will likely be referred to a cardiologist to undergo a series of tests. Most cardiologists will perform electrocardiograms. This test records heart activity and paints a clear picture of whether a heart block is present. Another type of test that is often performed is an echocardiogram, which is an ultrasound that allows the physician to look at your heart valves. Electrophysiology tests are also common. These tests use tiny electrical shocks to pinpoint the cause of an irregular heartbeat.

Risk Factors for a Heart BlockAlthough some people are born with heart blocks, most people with this medical issue develop it as they get older. You are at a higher risk for a heart block if you smoke or have a history of heart disease. The following health conditions also put you at a higher risk for a heart block:Endocarditis Cardiomyopathy Myocarditis Coronary thrombosis Scar tissue in the heart

Treatment for a Heart BlockA heart block doesn't have a specific type of treatment. Instead, the underlying issue contributing to the heart block must be identified and then treated accordingly. For those who experience frequent fainting as a result of a heart block, an artificial pacemaker is often implanted. The surgical procedure for the implant usually takes one to two hours.

Complications With a Heart BlockThose who have a heart block that comes in the form of a left-side bundle branch block are at a higher risk of complications than those experiencing a heart block on the right side. Such complications usually come in the form of:Insufficient contraction Arrhythmia Cardiac arrest Sudden cardiac death Bradycardia

MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET Treatments for an enlarged heart (a condition also known as "cardiomegaly") depend on the underlying condition contributing to the disease. Common causes include coronary artery disease, hypertension and substance abuse, according to WebMD. Approaches vary, but could include one of these five treatments for enlarged hearts.

Coronary Artery Bypass GraftingIf your condition is caused by coronary artery disease, bypass surgery may be one of your doctor's recommendations for treatment, according to the Mayo Clinic. Baptist Health notes that a coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) procedure typically stops chest pain and improves blood flow to reduce your risk of a heart attack. During CABG, your surgeon grafts veins or arteries from another part of the body and uses it to go around one of your narrowed coronary arteries. Patients usually spend a day or two in intensive care, followed by a few more days in the hospital. Recovery typically takes up to 12 weeks.

Left Ventricular Assist Device ImplantationFor patients with enlarged hearts and heart failure, surgeons often recommend implanting a left ventricular assist device (LVAD). This mechanical pump helps take some of the stress off your heart by assisting it while it pumps, according to the Mayo Clinic. Recovery from this procedure depends a lot on your condition before the surgery. In most cases, patients spend several days in the hospital, according to Baptist Health. Your doctor will let you know when you can resume normal activities.

Medical DevicesThe Mayo Clinic points to several medical devices that may be used to help regulate your heartbeat. Each one is associated with a different underlying condition. Patients with a certain kind of enlarged heart known as dilated cardiomyopathy may benefit from having a pacemaker implanted to coordinate the contractions in the heart. For patients at risk of abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias), a small device called an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) monitors the heart's rhythm and gives an electric shock to control heartbeats as necessary.

Heart TransplantsMaking lifestyle changes can improve symptoms associated with an enlarged heart, notes the Mayo Clinic. Examples include stopping smoking, cutting back on salt, alcohol and caffeine, getting an average of eight hours of sleep every night, controlling diabetes and high blood pressure and getting moderate exercise.

MedicationsIn addition to surgical options and lifestyle changes, many patients control symptoms of an enlarged heart with medication. Doctors typically prescribe drugs to help lower your blood pressure, enhance the efficiency of your heart's contractions and reduce your risk of having a heart attack or a stroke, says Baptist Health. The Mayo Clinic lists examples of commonly prescribed drugs used as treatment for an enlarged heart, including angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, which lower blood pressure and help your heart pump more effectively; beta blockers, which improve your heart function while lowering blood pressure; antiarrhythmics, which minimize the risk of an abnormal heartbeat; and anticoagulants, which reduce your risk of blood clots.

MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET A heart defect is a problem in the heart's structure. Kids who have a heart defect were born with it. Heart defects are often called "congenital," which means "present at birth." Heart defects are also sometimes referred to as "congenital heart disease." Heart defects can range from mild to severe. What Are the Types of Heart Defects? Types of congenital heart defects include: How Are Heart Defects Treated? Children with minor heart defects may not need any treatment. But some babies have serious symptoms that need medical or surgical treatment within the first year of life. They'll be cared for by: pediatric cardiologists; doctors who specialize in treating children's heart problems or pediatric heart surgeons; doctors who specialize in children's heart surgery

Procedures done through cardiac catheterization — such as balloon angioplasty or valvuloplasty — can widen an obstructed blood vessel or valve. Another procedure, transcatheter device occlusion, can close abnormal openings or holes within the heart or blood vessels without surgery. Some problems, such as small- or moderate-sized ventricular septal defects, may close or get smaller as a child grows. While waiting for the hole to close, the child might have to take medicines. Complex defects found early might need a series of operations that are finished when a child is about 3 years old.

What Happens After Treatment? Kids treated for a defect (surgically or medically) will need regular visits with a pediatric cardiologist. At first, these visits might happen often — perhaps every month or two. Later, they might be cut back, sometimes to just once a year. The cardiologist may use tools like X-rays, electrocardiograms (ECGs), or echocardiograms to watch the defect and the effects of treatment. Some physical activities might be limited, but kids can still play and explore with friends. Always check with the cardiologist about which activities are OK for your child and which to avoid. Some competitive sports could be off limits, for example. Preventing Infection Infective (or bacterial) endocarditis is an infection of the tissue that lines the heart and blood vessels. Kids with heart defects used to get before procedures that could let get into the bloodstream, such as: But now, preventive antibiotics are given only to some children with heart defects. This includes those who: have a type of congenital heart disease that causes cyanosis (bluish color of the skin) have had infective endocarditis before had their defect repaired with prosthetic material (like an artificial heart valve) or device The cardiologist will know the latest guidelines, and can advise you based on your child's diagnosis. Kids with heart defects should take good care of their teeth. They should brush and floss daily, and have regular dental visits and cleanings as often as the dentist recommends. Looking Ahead Most heart defects are now treated during infancy. So when your child is old enough to understand, explain what happened. Talk about why your child: has a surgical scar needs to take medicine has to visit the pediatric cardiologist Describe the treatment in a way your child can understand. It can be tempting to be very protective. But help your child lead as normal a life as possible. Talk with your cardiologist or the care team about safe ways to do this. They are there to support your child and the whole family. It also can help to look for local and online support groups. This can connect you to other families who can share what works for them. What Else Should I Know? As kids get older, it's important to help them learn how to take charge of their medical care. A younger teen could fill a prescription or schedule an appointment. Older teens should understand health insurance coverage and know how to access their medical records. Help an older teen move from a pediatric cardiologist to one who cares for adults. He or she should play an active role in choosing the new doctor. Encourage your child to make appointments, ask questions and take notes, and set aside time to speak with the doctor alone. To prepare for adulthood and manage their health care, teens should know: about their heart condition when to get care the names of all medicines, their dosages and when to take them, common side effects, and interactions with other medicines if they have allergies to food or medicine the answers to most questions about their health and medical history how to: schedule appointments order prescription refills contact the care team manage medical tasks outside of home what problems can happen if they don't follow the treatment plan about their insurance coverage to always carry their insurance information with them

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