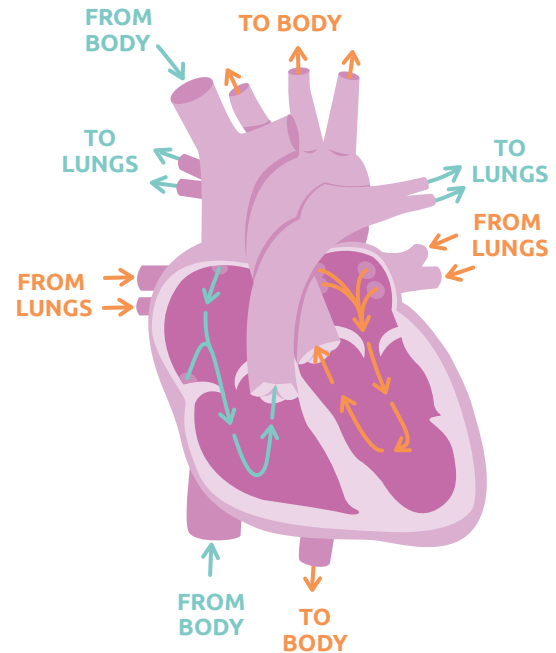


An Introduction to Pediatric Heart Failure

WHAT IS THE HEART & HOW DOES IT WORK?

The heart is a muscle that pumps blood around the body. The four chambers in the heart are separated into the right and left sides.



The right side

of the heart fills with blood from the body and squeezes to pump blood to the lungs to get oxygen.

The left side

of the heart fills with blood from the lungs, and squeezes to pump blood with oxygen to the body.



WHAT IS HEART FAILURE?

A group of symptoms that occur when the heart doesn't squeeze enough to move blood out or relax enough to let blood in.



COMMON CAUSES OF HEART FAILURE?



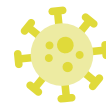
CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE

Stress and damage to the heart muscle caused because the heart chambers and connections are not formed properly during fetal life.



CARDIOMYOPATHY

An abnormality of the heart muscle that may be present from birth or can be caused by other diseases. There are many types of cardiomyopathy.



MYOCARDITIS

A heart muscle injury often caused by certain infections.



CARDIOTOXICITY

A heart muscle injury often caused by certain medications and treatments, such as chemotherapy or radiation.

SYMPTOMS & SIGNS OF HEART FAILURE

Children with heart failure often have poor growth, have fast or labored breathing and are less active and energetic than other kids. Symptoms can range from mild to severe. Other symptoms of heart failure may look different based on your age.



INFANTS

Trouble with feeding: taking longer to feed, needing frequent breaks, sweating or difficulty breathing while feeding

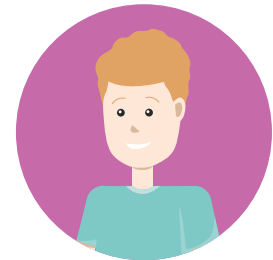
Needing more naps



TODDLERS

Poor appetite, belly pain, nausea and/or vomiting

Tire easily when playing



SCHOOL AGED

Poor appetite, belly pain, nausea and/or vomiting

Not able to keep up or needing frequent breaks compared to others the same age

Not able to lie flat when sleeping or wake up gasping for air

Swelling of the belly, feet, ankles or around eyes



CALL YOUR DOCTOR

Please talk to your doctor if you have any questions or are worried about your child's heart function. Your doctor may obtain more imaging of the heart, order bloodwork and discuss further evaluation and treatment options.

