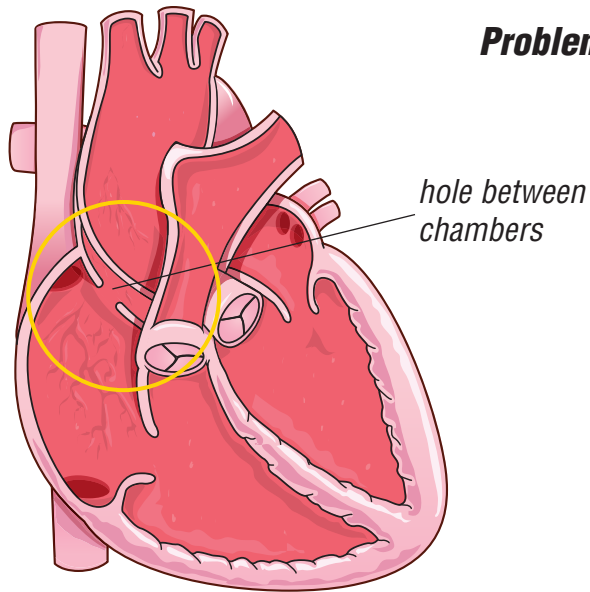


# Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)

## Problem



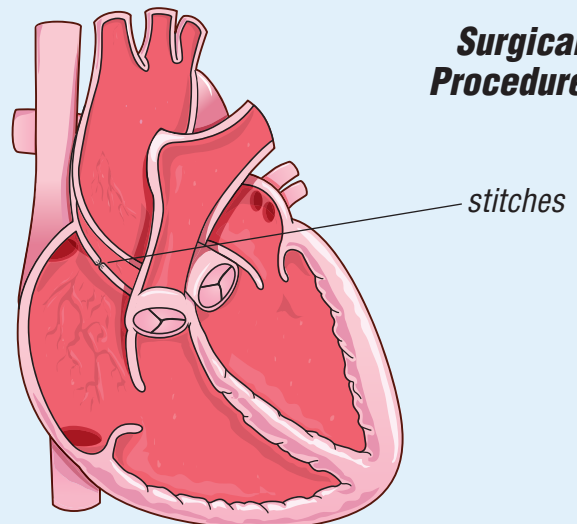
There is a hole between the top two chambers of the heart. The hole can be high, in the middle or low in the wall separating the chambers.

The hole allows the red and blue blood to mix together. The red blood from the high pressured left side of the heart goes across the hole to the lower pressured right side. This increases the work load of the right side of the heart. Also, red blood goes back to the lungs from the right side of the heart. Over time there can be damage to the heart and lungs from too much blood.

The hole is closed with stitches or a patch. Most of the time, the patch is a small piece of the sac that the heart sits in. This sac is called pericardium.

A median sternotomy (chest) incision is used for the ASD repair. In some cases a submammary (beneath the breasts) incision or a thoracotomy (side) incision is offered.

## Surgical Procedure



## Surgical Procedure

