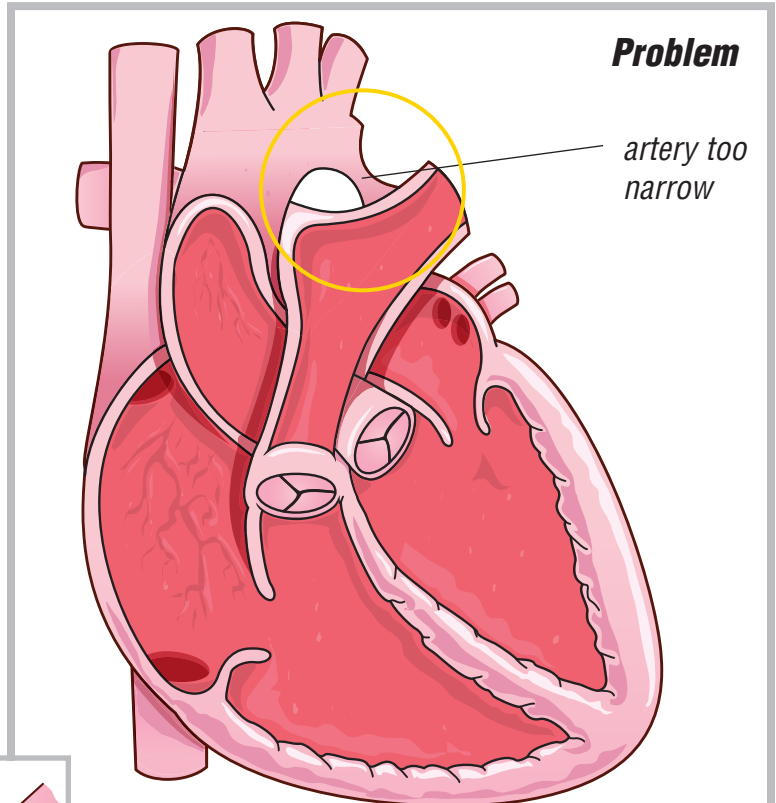
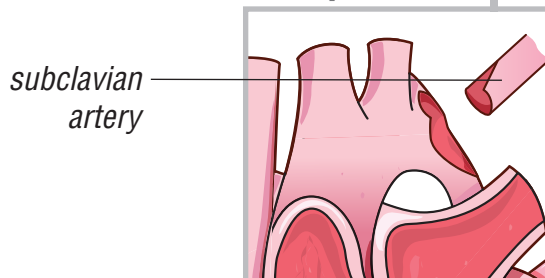


Coarctation of the Aorta

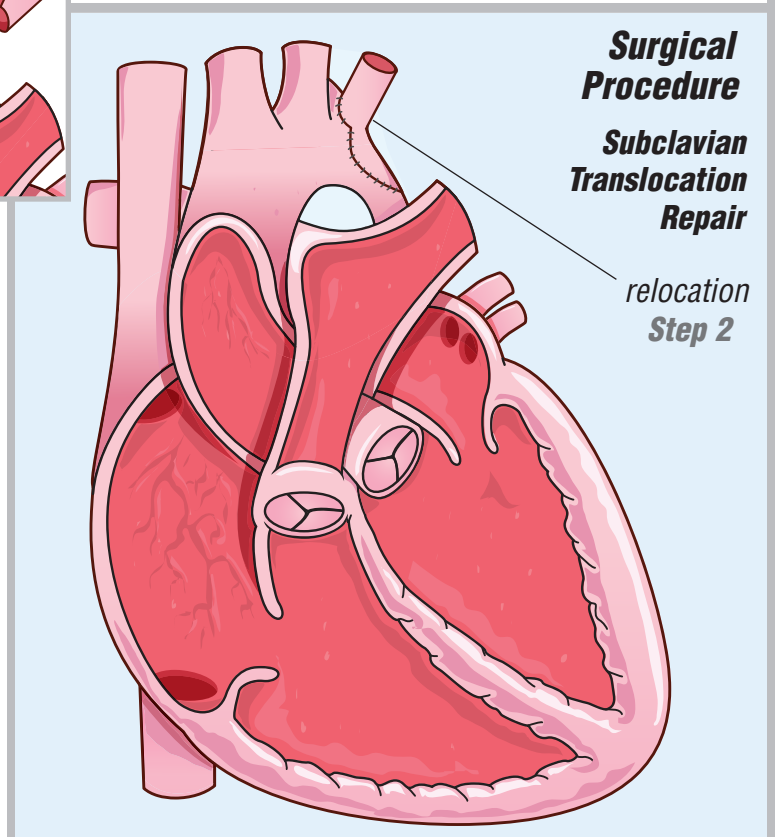
This is a narrowing of the major artery from the heart to the body (the aorta). The narrowing decreases the blood flow to the body and makes the heart pump harder against the smaller than normal opening.



Step 1



One repair option is using a blood vessel to the arm (subclavian artery) to widen the narrowed area (subclavian translocation). The subclavian artery is separated from the aorta. A long incision is made along the narrowing of the aorta and the subclavian artery is relocated along this incision and sewn into the aorta.



Surgery is done through an incision in the left side of the chest (thoracotomy).