

Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA)

There is an open connection between the aorta and the pulmonary artery. This connection is essential before birth but normally closes itself shortly after birth. This connecting blood vessel increases the chance of endocarditis (infection of the heart) if it is not corrected.

If there is a great deal of blood flowing through this blood vessel, it can lead to congestive heart failure (especially in premature infants).

To correct the problem, the connection from the aorta to the pulmonary artery is closed. Closing the connecting vessel can be done by either:

- removing it
- tying it off with braided sutures
- clamping it closed with a Hemoclip® (v-shaped clip made of titanium)

The surgery is done through an incision on the left side of the chest (thoracotomy).

