

**Department Of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs**

**Truncus Arteriosus**

**What is Truncus Arteriosus?**

- Heart defect which is present at birth (congenital)
- This is a condition in which a single blood vessel branches out of the heart, instead of two separate blood vessels - pulmonary artery which takes blood to the lungs and aorta which takes blood to the body.

**What is the cause of Truncus Arteriosus?**

- It occurs during fetal growth and development but the cause is unknown

**Signs and Symptoms**

- Bluish skin color, especially around the lips and fingernails
- Lethargy (tiredness)
- Poor feeding
- Fast and difficult breathing
- Delayed growth and development

**How is Truncus Arteriosus treated?**

- Medicines may be used to improve blood circulation.
- Surgery is needed to create two separate main arteries leaving the heart – the pulmonary artery to the lungs and the aorta to the body.

**Support Groups and Online Resources**

- Congenital Heart Disease Information and Resources  
<http://www.tchin.org/>  
1-609-822-1572
- Little Hearts Inc.  
[www.littlehearts.org](http://www.littlehearts.org)  
1-866-435-4673
- March of Dimes  
[www.marchofdimes.com](http://www.marchofdimes.com)  
1-410-546-2241
- Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs  
[phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics/](http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics/)  
1-855-535-5655
- The Parents' Place Of Maryland  
[www.ppmmd.org](http://www.ppmmd.org)  
1-410-768-9100