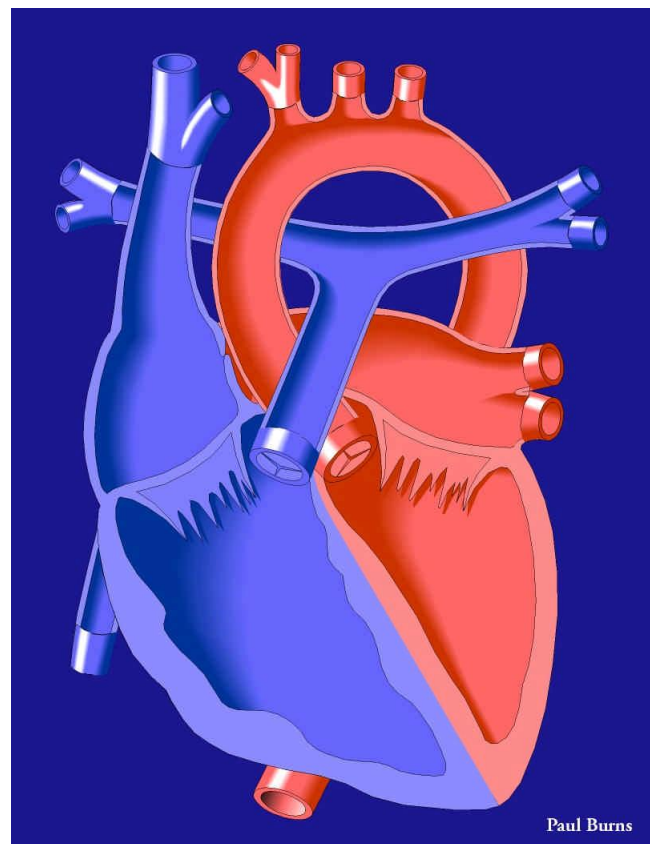
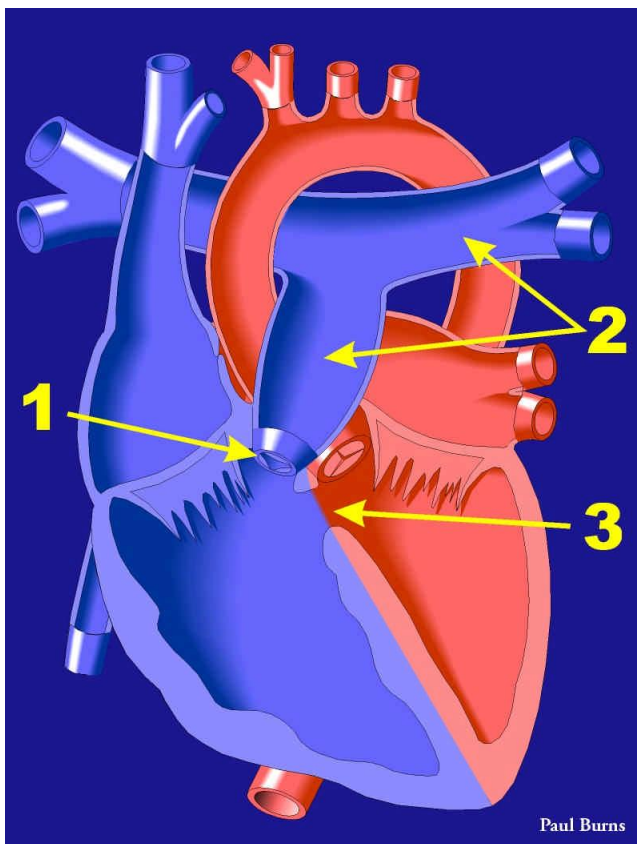


Absent Pulmonary Valve



What Is It?

In this rare defect, the pulmonary valve, through which blood is pumped by the right ventricle to the lungs, is largely absent and leaks. The absence of the pulmonary valve results in massive dilatation (enlargement) of the pulmonary arteries (2 in diagram). In addition, there may also be a large ventricular septal defect (VSD), or hole in the dividing wall (septum) between the right and left ventricles.



Absent Pulmonary Valve

- 1) Absent pulmonary valve
- 2) Enlargement (dilatation) of the pulmonary artery,
- 3) Ventricular septal defect (VSD)

Normal Heart

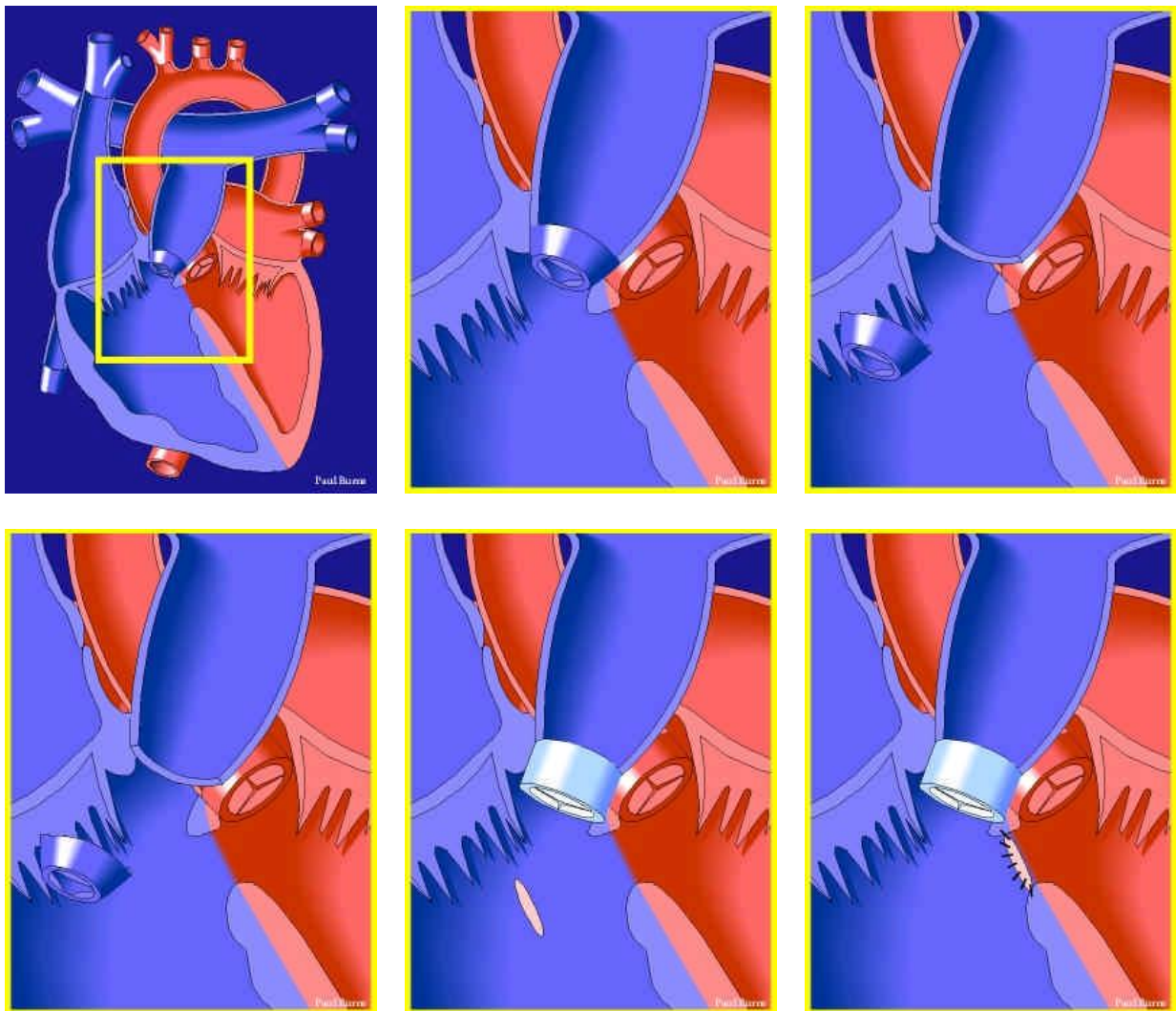
What are Its Effects?

As a result of the malformation of the pulmonary valve, the pulmonary artery becomes greatly enlarged and may interfere with breathing by compressing the bronchial tubes.

The large Ventricular Septal Defect allows the mixing of oxygen-rich and oxygen-poor blood in the two ventricles. This decreases the amount of oxygen carried to the body's tissues, resulting in "blueness" or cyanosis.

How Is It Treated?

Absent Pulmonary Valve may be treated by replacing the pulmonary valve and closing the ventricular septal defect with a patch. (Shown as a pink oval in the illustrations below)



Surgical Repair of Absent Pulmonary Valve