



# The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

## Questions to Ask Your Child's Doctor about Ventricular Septal Defect

1. Does my child need treatment immediately or can it wait?
2. Will my child require surgery?
3. If he/she needs surgery, what do I need to do to prepare him or her?
4. What are the risks of the treatment that you've recommended?
5. How often do you perform the procedure that you've recommended for my child?
6. What is the success rate for that specific procedure?
7. Are there any other treatment options we can consider?
8. Can you walk me through the entire treatment process?
9. Will I need to care for my child differently after treatment? Will he/she require special attention?
10. How long will my child be in the hospital?
11. Are there any symptoms or side effects? When should I bring my child in if I do notice symptoms?
12. Will my child have any restrictions on activity as he/she ages, or require long-term medications?
13. Will he/she have a scar? Is there any way to reduce the size?
14. What will my child's follow-up care be like?
15. Will my future children be at risk for congenital heart defects?
16. Should I have my older children evaluated for a heart defect?