



The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Questions to Ask the Doctor Ventricular Septal Defect Surgery

- What type of VSD surgery will my child have? Why is this type being done instead of another?
- How often do you perform the procedure that you've recommended for my child?
- What is the success rate for this specific procedure?
- Are there any other treatment options we can consider?
- What type of anesthesia will my child be given?
- What complications should I expect, and what signs should I watch for?
- What will my child's scar look like?
- How long will my child be in the hospital?
- What activities will my child be able to do upon returning home?
- When can my child return to school?
- Will I need to care for my child differently after treatment? Will he/she require special attention?
- Who should I call if my child experiences any problems after returning home?
- What will my child's follow-up care be like?
- Will my child have to take any long-term medications?
- How likely is it that my child will need additional treatment later?
- What can my child expect over the long run—in a year or 5 years after the surgery?