



The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Questions to Ask the Doctor **Ventricular Septal Defect**

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