

Atrial Septal Defect Closure (Open-Heart Method)

Atrial Septal Defect Closure is a surgery to fix a hole in the heart called an atrial septal defect, or ASD.

An atrial septal defect is a hole in the wall that separates the heart's two upper chambers. These chambers are called atria. The wall between them is called the septum. An ASD is a type of birth defect.

If the hole is small, it may not cause problems or need treatment. But if the hole is large, it can allow blood to leak into the wrong chambers of the heart. This makes the heart and lungs work harder, which can cause unpleasant symptoms and lead to long-term health problems.

An atrial septal defect may be found during pregnancy or shortly after birth. In many cases they are not found until adulthood.

If you or your child has an ASD, open-heart surgery may be needed to repair the hole to prevent problems with blood flow.

Before the surgery, you'll be given medicines that put you to sleep.

Your surgeon will make a cut in your chest. It may be down the middle of the chest or in another location to reach your heart.

Your heart is then stopped with medicine. You will be connected to a heart-lung machine to keep blood pumping throughout your body during the surgery.

Your surgeon then finds and closes the atrial septal defect. If the hole is small, they may sew it up with stitches. If the hole is larger, they will cover it with a patch.

After the hole is closed, your surgeon will restart your heart and close the cut in your chest.

After surgery, it usually takes a few weeks to get back to normal activities.

You will have regular tests and check ups throughout your life to make sure your heart is working properly.