The Heart and Normal Blood Flow

A normal heart is a strong pump about the size of a fist. Heart muscles work hard to bring oxygen-rich blood to different parts of your body. Many individuals with 22q are born with congenital heart defects, typically **conotruncal heart defects** involving the **cardiac outflow tract** and the **aortic arch**, which may require surgical treatment and/or long-term monitoring. To understand these heart defects, let's first find out what a normal heart looks like and how the blood typically flows.

Atrial septum Right atrium Right ventricle Right ventricle

As seen in the schematic diagram below, **oxygen-poor blood (bluish)** arrives at the **right** chambers of the heart before being pumped to the lungs to get oxygen and release carbon dioxide. **Oxygen-rich blood (red)** goes from the lungs to the **left** chambers of the heart, where it is pumped to the rest of the body.





For more info, please visit the websites of the CDC or the American Heart Association.



The mission of the <u>International 22q11.2 Foundation</u> is to improve the quality of life for individuals affected by chromosome 22q11.2 differences through family and professional partnerships.

This information is brought to you by the Foundation for educational purposes only. It is <u>not</u> intended to be taken as medical advice. If you have concerns, please talk to your healthcare provider.

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