

**Department Of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs**

**Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return**

**What is Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return (TAPVR)?**

- Heart defect which is present at birth (congenital)
- It is a condition in which oxygen-rich blood flows from the lungs to the right atrium or to a vein flowing into the right atrium instead of the left side of the heart. As a result, the blood flows to and from the lungs and never flows to the rest of the body.

**What is the cause of Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return?**

- The cause is unknown but abnormal blood vessel formation occurs during fetal development.

**Signs and Symptoms**

- Bluish skin color, especially around lips and fingernails
- Frequent respiratory infections
- Poor feeding and poor growth
- Lethargy (tiredness)
- Fainting episodes
- Fast and difficult breathing

**How is Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return treated?**

- Surgery is required to connect the pulmonary veins to the left atrium to allow oxygenated blood to circulate to the body.

**Support Groups and Online Resources**

- Congenital Heart Disease Information and Resources  
<http://www.tchin.org/>  
1-609-822-1572
- Little Hearts Inc.  
[www.littlehearts.org](http://www.littlehearts.org)  
1-866-435-4673
- March of Dimes  
[www.marchofdimes.com](http://www.marchofdimes.com)  
1-410-546-2241
- Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs  
[phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics/](http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics/)  
1-855-535-5655
- The Parents' Place Of Maryland  
[www.ppmmd.org](http://www.ppmmd.org)  
1-410-768-9100