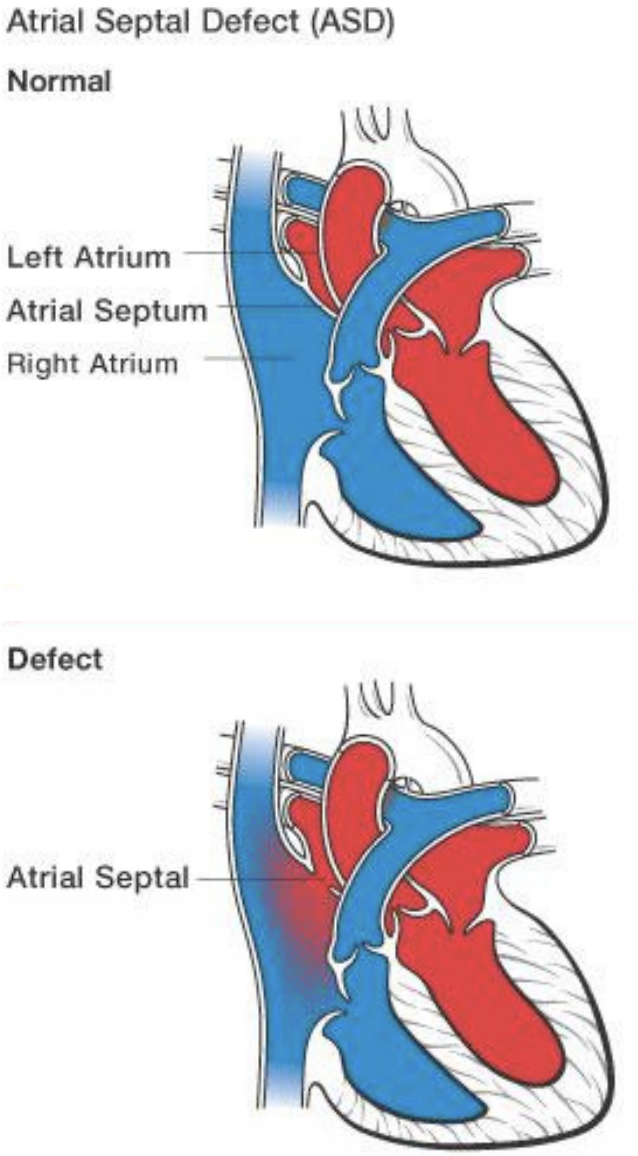
Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)

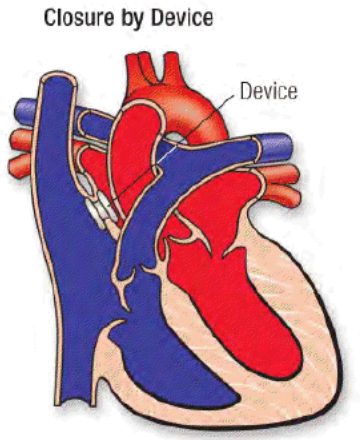
When there's a large defect between the atria, a large amount of oxygen-rich (red) blood from the heart's left side leaks back to the right side. Then it's pumped back to the lungs, even though it's already refreshed with oxygen. This is inefficient, since blood that's already been to the lungs is returning there, and blood that needs to go to the lungs is being displaced.

Many children with this defect have few, if any, symptoms. Closing the atrial defect by open heart surgery in childhood can prevent serious problems later in life. Not only that, the long-term outlook is excellent.

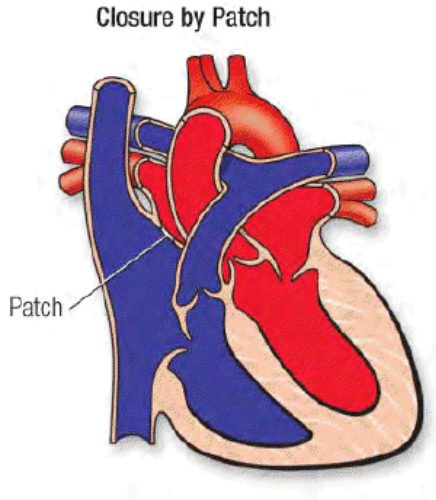


Repairing ASD

If ASD is centrally located and has adequate rims, it can be closed in the cardiac catheterization lab. The heart catheterization doctor inserts a device with a dual disc design which closes the defect. Two devices are available for the closure. (Amplatzer device and Gore Helex device).



Large defects and defects with difficult rims are closed by open heart surgery, using sutures and/or a surgical patch.



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