

Echocardiogram

[Echoing Cardiogram](#)

Postnatal diagnosis is typically made via echocardiogram. It is important to make the diagnosis as quickly as possible so that treatment can begin immediately.

Chest X-ray shows "Egg-shaped Silhouette"

[Egg on Chest X-ray](#)

A chest radiograph may show an "egg shaped silhouette" or "egg on a string" appearance.

Treatment

Prostaglandin

[P-rasta](#)

Initial treatment consists of keeping the ductus arteriosus open with IV PGE1 infusion. This allows some mixing of the two blood circulations.

Avoid NSAIDs

[Avoid-sign N-sad](#)

NSAIDs such as indomethacin close the ductus arteriosus, so it is crucial that NSAIDs are not given to these patients.

Surgical Correction

[Surgeon with scalpel](#)

The arterial switch operation is the most common procedure that permanently corrects the anatomic defect by switching the vessels to their usual positions — the pulmonary artery arising from the right ventricle and aorta from the left ventricle. Coronary arteries (small arteries that supply blood to the heart muscle) must also be moved and reattached to the aorta.

Balloon Atrial Septostomy

[Balloon with Atrial Opening](#)

Balloon Atrial Septostomy is performed to stabilize patients with severe hypoxemia. In this procedure, a balloon is placed across the atrial septum allowing for intracardiac mixing, resulting in improved systemic oxygenation.