

# Atrioventricular Septal Defect (Endocardial Cushion Defect)

An Atrioventricular Septal Defect (AVSD) (ā-trē-ō-ven-'tri-kyā-lər, -vən-'sep-təl 'dē-fekt, di-) is a heart defect in which there are holes between the chambers of the right and left sides of the heart, and the valves that control the flow of blood between these chambers may not be formed correctly. This condition is also called atrioventricular canal (AV canal) defect or endocardial cushion defect. In AVSD, blood flows where it normally should not go. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that about 1 in 2,120 babies are born with AVSD every year in the United States. AVSD is common in babies with Down Syndrome. For more information about AVSD see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website [tinyurl.com/y9cbonw8](https://tinyurl.com/y9cbonw8).

## Resources for families

### Northwest support resources

- Children's Heart Foundation (OR)  
[tinyurl.com/ycklmhgr](https://tinyurl.com/ycklmhgr)
- Pediatric Congenital Heart Assoc. (WA)  
[tinyurl.com/yba3yhlw](https://tinyurl.com/yba3yhlw)
- Mended Little Hearts - Portland  
[Facebook]  
[tinyurl.com/y9zskzll](https://tinyurl.com/y9zskzll)

### National/international/online resources

- American Heart Association (AHA)  
Support Network for Congenital Heart  
Defects (CHD)  
[tinyurl.com/y5bxh3z3](https://tinyurl.com/y5bxh3z3)
- Mended Hearts  
[tinyurl.com/7wppot4](https://tinyurl.com/7wppot4)
- Little Hearts - Parent Matching Program  
[tinyurl.com/y7wuh4yc](https://tinyurl.com/y7wuh4yc)
- Children's Heart Foundation (CHF)  
[tinyurl.com/ptkqdj](https://tinyurl.com/ptkqdj)
- Congenital Heart Info Network  
[Facebook]  
[tinyurl.com/y8oxl67t](https://tinyurl.com/y8oxl67t)

### Information for you and your care team

- Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
Atrioventricular Septal Defect  
[tinyurl.com/y8wnnwsh](https://tinyurl.com/y8wnnwsh)
- AHA - Fact sheets and other tools  
[tinyurl.com/kex96bk](https://tinyurl.com/kex96bk)

- AHA - Portable medical info [PDF]  
[tinyurl.com/ydye5u4s](https://tinyurl.com/ydye5u4s)
- NIH Library of Medicine  
[tinyurl.com/aot8rx](https://tinyurl.com/aot8rx)

### Family stories

- AHA Family Stories  
[tinyurl.com/y8j578ny](https://tinyurl.com/y8j578ny)
- Little Hearts Stories of Hope  
[tinyurl.com/y8cze7em](https://tinyurl.com/y8cze7em)

### Clinical trial information

- Children and Clinical Studies  
[tinyurl.com/y75s4twm](https://tinyurl.com/y75s4twm)
- Find an approved clinical trial  
[tinyurl.com/zp3jesq](https://tinyurl.com/zp3jesq)

### Insurance information and help

- Getting insurance for children (OR)  
[tinyurl.com/ydfaaeoy](https://tinyurl.com/ydfaaeoy)
- Understand your health insurance  
[tinyurl.com/y46h8nvx](https://tinyurl.com/y46h8nvx)
- Learn about coverage  
[tinyurl.com/y4639rz6](https://tinyurl.com/y4639rz6)
- Road map to health  
[tinyurl.com/yysc6kv7](https://tinyurl.com/yysc6kv7)
- General/Oregon Health Plan Questions:  
855-323-6744

### Other resources

- CHF - *It's My Heart* - free resource book  
[tinyurl.com/ybyp9goh](https://tinyurl.com/ybyp9goh)
- AHA Web Booklet - *If Your Child Has a Congenital Heart Defect*  
[tinyurl.com/ycgu5mzw](https://tinyurl.com/ycgu5mzw)
- Merry Heart Children's Camp  
[tinyurl.com/yaml6cma](https://tinyurl.com/yaml6cma)
- Summer camps for kids with CHD  
(outside OR)  
[tinyurl.com/y9awy2gy](https://tinyurl.com/y9awy2gy)
- NIH - Miscellaneous tip sheets for  
children, teens and families  
[tinyurl.com/y86ofx4e](https://tinyurl.com/y86ofx4e)
- CDC - Five Things you Need to Know  
about CHD [PDF]  
[tinyurl.com/yavg6fn2](https://tinyurl.com/yavg6fn2)

### Books for parents and children

- Bibliography available by calling  
the Oregon Family to Family Health  
Information Center at 855-323-6744
- Swindells' online library search  
[tinyurl.com/y9t2jwcx](https://tinyurl.com/y9t2jwcx)