

MonashHeart, Southern Health is committed to providing outstanding cardiac services for cardiac patients of all ages

- ♥ Every 10 minutes, an Australian dies from cardiovascular disease making it the biggest killer of all Australians
- ♥ MonashHeart treats more acute heart attack patients than anywhere else in Victoria
- ♥ Each year MonashHeart treats over 5700 patients with acute heart problems, the most in Victoria
- ♥ MonashHeart operates one of the busiest cardiac CT scanners in the world
- ♥ MonashHeart is the only cardiac service in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania to treat heart patients of all ages; from pre birth to our senior citizens
- ♥ MonashHeart is an internationally and nationally recognised leader in cardiovascular research
- ♥ Nearly one in 100 children in Australia are born with a heart defect. Congenital heart disease accounts for 50% of childhood lethal malformations



Fundraising Manager
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At the **Heart** of Care and Innovation

Some useful websites

MonashHeart
www.monashheart.org.au

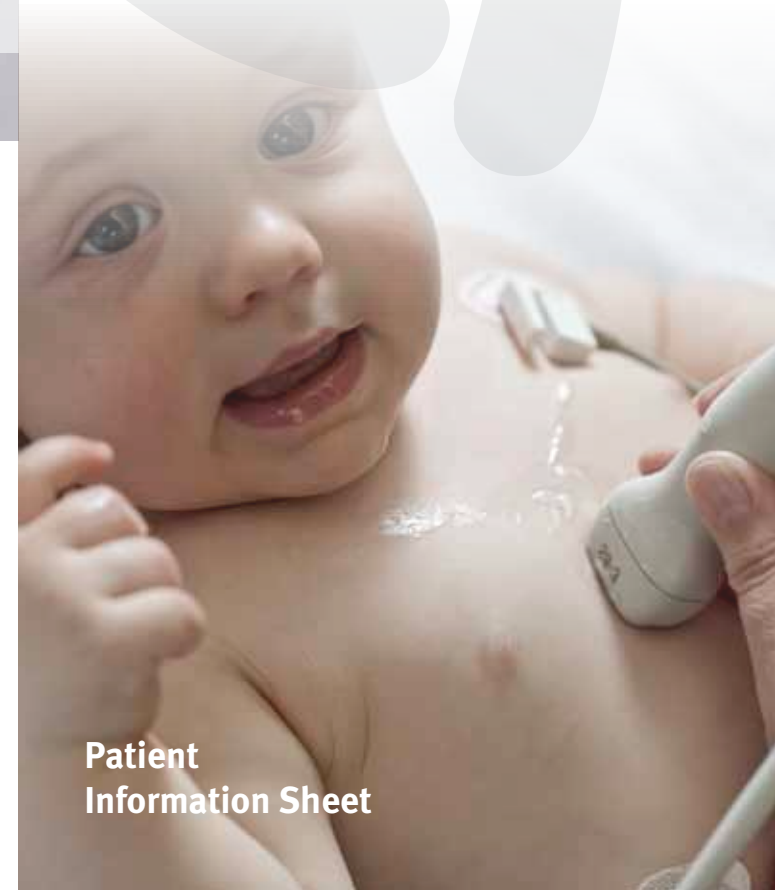
Patient Information
www.heartfoundation.com.au



Please use this space to write down any questions you may have:



Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)



Patient
Information Sheet

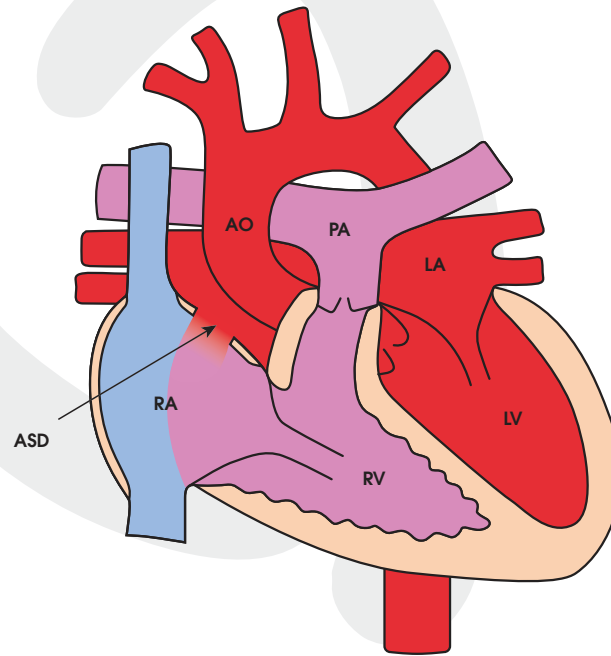
What is Atrial Septal Defect? (ASD)



An atrial septal defect, or ASD, is a hole between the collecting chambers of the heart, the right and left atria. There are several different kinds of ASD, when the hole is in different places in the septum, or wall, between the atria. The most common place for the hole is in the middle of the septum. This is called a 'secundum ASD'.

An ASD allows 'pink' blood (blood that has already passed through the lungs and is carrying oxygen) from the lungs to cross back to the right side of the heart, mixing with the 'blue' blood (non-oxygenated) from the body, and going round the lungs again. Because of the extra blood that has to be pumped to the lungs, the right ventricle usually becomes larger than normal.

Despite this, it is uncommon for an ASD to cause symptoms in childhood, and it may not be detected until school age, or even adult life. Many people with an ASD start to develop problems in middle age, and it is to prevent these problems developing that a cardiologist will usually recommend closing an ASD after it is detected. This may be done with an operation, or alternatively by a catheter procedure if the ASD is suitable.



RA is right atrium

LA is left atrium

RV is right ventricle

LV is left ventricle

PA is pulmonary artery

AO is aorta

PFO is patent foramen ovale

PDA is patent ductus arteriosus

■ is blue blood from the body

■ is pink blood with oxygen from the lungs



I support MonashHeart, Southern Health in providing leading care to cardiac patients of all ages.

(Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible ABN 82 142 080 338)

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Online: www.monashheart.org.au/donate

Thank you for supporting MonashHeart