

Preterm PDA : A Tiny Passage with Big Implications for Preemies

Department of Paediatric Cardiac Sciences

The arrival of a baby, especially a preemie, is a whirlwind of emotions. But for some families, that joy can be tinged with worry if their little one is diagnosed with a patent ductus arteriosus (PDA).

What is PDA?

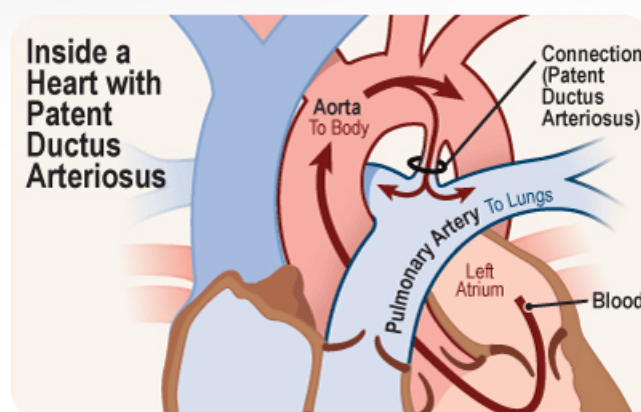
Before birth, a tiny passageway called the ductus arteriosus (DA) allows blood to bypass the baby's lungs. This is because a developing baby gets oxygen from the mother's blood. Normally, the DA closes shortly after birth. However, in premature babies, this closure can be delayed, creating a PDA.

Why is PDA a concern in preemies?

An open PDA can put extra strain on a preemie's tiny heart and lungs. This can lead to breathing problems, slow weight gain, and even difficulty feeding. While not all PDAs require intervention, some may need treatment to help the baby thrive.

Treatment Options for Preterm PDA

There are different approaches to treating PDA, depending on its severity. Medications can help stimulate the DA to close naturally. In some cases, a minimally invasive procedure using a catheter can be used to close the PDA. In rare instances, surgery may be necessary.



The Road to Recovery

The good news is that with proper treatment, most babies with PDA go on to live healthy lives.

For Parents: Finding Support

A diagnosis of PDA in your preemie can be overwhelming. Remember, you're not alone. Talk to your doctor and nurses, and don't hesitate to ask questions.

The crucial role of Paediatric Cardiac Sciences

Managing preterm PDA requires a multidisciplinary team, including neonatologists and paediatric cardiologists. The Department of Paediatric Cardiac Sciences is vital as it monitors, diagnoses and decides the best course of treatment. Their single-minded focus is on ensuring the safe closure of the PDA while minimising risks to the fragile preterm heart and lungs.