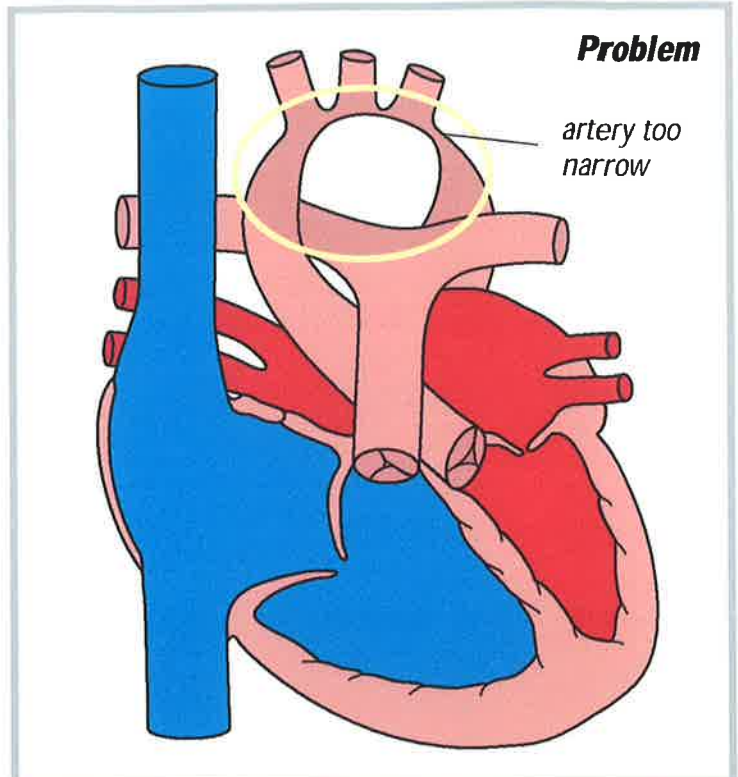


Hypoplastic Aortic Arch

The rounded top area of the main artery leaving the left side of the heart (aorta) is narrowed. This reduces the amount of blood going to the body and makes the heart overwork as it pumps against the narrowing.



Surgery is done to open the narrowed area to allow blood to flow smoothly through the aorta. Most often patches are used to widen the narrowing. Surgery may be done through either a thoracotomy (side) incision or, if there are other heart problems involved, through a median sternotomy (chest) incision.

