

Interrupted Aortic Arch

Type A - with Intact Ventricular Septum

There is an interruption of the main blood vessel leaving the left side of the heart (aorta). The interruption occurs after the left subclavian artery branches off. The flow of blood from the left side of the heart to the blood vessels of the body is interrupted.

As a result of this interruption, blood flow to the lower body is reduced because it has to move through an open connection between the aorta and the pulmonary artery (patent ductus arteriosus or PDA).

The goal of surgery is to reconnect the aorta to allow a smooth flow of blood from the heart to the blood vessels of the body. Most often the two parts of the aorta can be sewn together end-to-end. Other times the connection may be made with a patch or with part of another blood vessel.

The surgery is done through a thoracotomy (side) incision.

