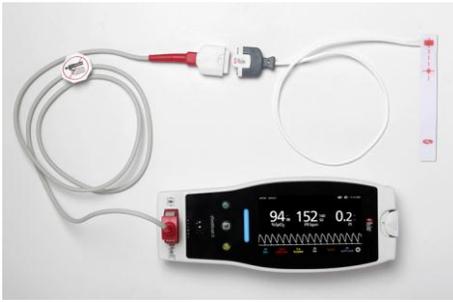


Did You Know?



A pulse oximeter machine, with the probe attachments.

- Pulse oximetry is noninvasive. It's quick and easy. It does not hurt your baby.
- The screening is mandated in some states, including Indiana.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Heart Association, March of Dimes, American College of Cardiology and the federal government all recommend that every newborn, even those that appear healthy are screened for heart defects with pulse oximetry.

Resources

For more information, visit the following sites:

www.noble-hearts.com

www.corasstory.com

www.pulseoxadvocacy.com

www.babyheartscreening.com

www.savebabies.org

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/pediatricgenetics/cchdscreening.html

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/pediatricgenetics/documents/CCHD-factsheet.pdf

Special thanks to Masimo (www.masimo.com) for providing the photos used in this brochure.

BabyHeartScreening.com

www.facebook.com/NewbornHeartScreening



Newborn Heart Defect Screening



One in 100 babies are born with a congenital heart defect.

Less than half are detected prenatally. A non-invasive heart screening, pulse oximetry screening, can detect many defects.



BabyHeartScreening.com

Newborn Heart Defect Screening: Noninvasive, Inexpensive and Quick



.A newborn with a pulse oximetry probe.

What Is Newborn Heart Defect Screening?

Newborn heart defect screening, also called pulse oximetry screening or CCHD screening, involves placing a pulse oximeter probe on your baby's hand and foot for a few minutes. The screening should be done after your baby is 24 hours old and is usually done by a nurse in the hospital. Pulse oximetry measures the oxygen saturation level in your baby's blood. A low reading can indicate a potential heart problem. If the readings are low, your doctor will order further tests to rule out other issues and possibly order more testing of your baby's heart.

Lincoln and Cora

While often with proper treatment and earlier diagnosis, babies with heart defects live long healthy lives, if these heart defects aren't discovered early enough, mental delays, more surgeries and even death can occur.

Lincoln was born in 2011 in Ohio with a serious type of defect called hypoplastic left heart syndrome. His parents thought he was healthy until he started displaying symptoms at three days old. He was rushed to the hospital, and despite surgeries he passed away three months later. You can read more about Lincoln at www.noble-hearts.com

Cora was born in Indiana in 2009. She appeared perfectly healthy until she stopped breathing suddenly at five days old. She died before she reached the hospital and it was later discovered she had a congenital heart defect. She's the inspiration behind the Indiana pulse ox law. You can read more about Cora at www.corastory.com.

Had Lincoln and Cora been given pulse oximetry screening, it's possible they would have been given earlier treatment and they might be alive today.

While their stories are heartbreaking, their parents have turned tragedy into good, advocating for better newborn heart screening.

Indiana has a law that mandates that every newborn is screened with pulse oximetry for heart defects sometime after 24 hours of life and before you leave the hospital.

Be sure to ask your doctor if you have any questions or if you don't think your newborn was screened.

Signs of a Heart Defect

Pulse oximetry screening does not detect all defects. No test currently available can find all heart issues.

Not all newborns with heart defects have symptoms or signs. It's important to get the screening and report any of the following symptoms to your care provider.

- A heart murmur
- A bluish tint to skin, lips and fingernails ("blue baby")
- Fast breathing/shortness of breath
- Poor feeding in infants because they tire easily while nursing
- Poor weight gain in infants