What problems arise with a Tortuous Aorta?

Our heart plays an important role in the circulatory as well as in the cardiovascular system along with lungs and any blockage or damage to one of the arteries and veins of this system can bring serious problems to health. Aorta is one of the biggest arteries and delivers blood to the many organs in the body. A tortuous aorta is when it curves down as it descends down the trunk of the body instead of passing in a straight path.

What is Aorta?
The aorta is the largest artery in our body and supplies oxygenated blood to the body from the heart. It is divided into four divisions. When blood from all parts of the body enters the heart from the right side it is pumped to the lungs where exchange of gases take place and the oxygenated blood from the lungs is returned to the heart on the left side. The heart pumps this oxygenated blood through the aorta to the other arteries which supply oxygen to the various organs and You do not have access to view this node.

What is a Coarctation Artery?
Sometimes people could have what is called as Coarctation artery which is when the aorta is narrower and so the heart's left ventricle is more strained as it has to pump harder. It is a congenital defect meaning people are born with it. Unless the aorta is really narrow then it might be detected, otherwise people might grow up with it and not be aware unless a doctor checks their blood pressure which can be abnormal in sense it is higher in the hands and lesser in the legs. It can be treated these days with a procedure called balloon dilation or balloon angioplasty.

What Is a Tortuous Aorta?
Sometimes the area in aorta gets blocked automatically due to certain obstructions. Such problem is known as Tortuous Aorta. The most common reason is the distortion in shape of the aorta due to the twist or even kink in the pathway. In such cases, the distortion or the blockage limits the supply of blood to the body due to which the body organs cannot function properly. Loss of circulation and high blood pressure are the common problems associated with Tortuous Aorta.

What is the health complications related to Tortuous Aorta?
High blood pressure is the common problems associated with Tortuous Aorta as the blood flow is interrupted and restricted. When the condition worsens atherosclerosis can affect the person. In such circumstances, the plaque forms lining inside the blood vessels due to which blood supply becomes limited. In grave conditions the esophagus too gets altered. Due to the twisting or distortion in the aorta, the esophagus gets pressurized due to which it evokes strong pain.

What are the treatments for tortuous aorta?
Many treatments are available in the medicinal world to combat the problem of tortuous aorta:

Surgery: Surgery is one of the options which are often done immediately once the patient shows this condition, especially in case of a newborn. The narrowed aorta portion is eliminated through surgery and the surgeon then reconnects the good ends of aorta. Sometimes there is not ample amount of tissue present in the aorta. In such cases, the surgeon then replaces it with a Dacron graft which is a manmade material. Most of the times, to further avoid complications of high blood pressure; the patient is advised regular medication after You do not have access to view this node.

Balloon angioplasty: Instead of surgery, sometimes balloon angioplasty is preferred although over the years its efficiency has been under question. In this procedure, the doctor puts in a catheter inside the aorta and through it places a small balloon inside it. Now when this balloon is placed well at the position of distortion, it is inflated so that the artery gets widened. So as to hold the artery in the same open position, a stent is placed.

Although such problems in newborn can bring lot of anxiety to parents, patients have still been found to lead a normal life with
You do not have access to view this node.

External References
Tortuous Aorta - reference.com
Recognizing Cardiac problems - mademan

Related Videos:
Related Images:

©2006-2013 InnovateUs Inc. All rights reserved. Use of this web site constitutes acceptance of the InnovateUs Terms of Use and Privacy Policy.

InnovateUs.net does not provide financial advice or medical advice, diagnoses or treatment. InnovateUs.net does not verify the accuracy of community generated content including content by writers designated as experts or professionals. Use of this website constitutes acceptance of InnvoateUs.net terms of use.

Source URL: http://www.innovateus.net/health/what-problems-arise-tortuous-aorta