

## Birth Defects

Sometimes prenatal genetic tests, including ultrasound, may identify a birth defect in the baby. Some birth defects are mild and treatable and some are severe. Birth defects can occur in anyone. Sometimes birth defects run in a family due to a genetic cause. Sometimes birth defects are related to a medication or exposure that the mother had during pregnancy. However, often the cause of the birth defect is unknown.

You may have heard of some structural birth defects such as heart defects or cleft lip and palate. These are just two examples of birth defects, but there are many other types of birth defects. Some birth defects may require treatment or surgery after birth. If a birth defect is detected during pregnancy, your doctor will be able to provide you with more information about what to expect.



**Heart Defect**



**Cleft Lip**

You can find more information and videos about prenatal genetic testing options at:  
[www.geneticsupportfoundation.org](http://www.geneticsupportfoundation.org) and [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov).

OTHER RESOURCES:

Facts about Birth Defects from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/facts.html>