



Children's Health

Betty Irene Moore
Children's Heart Center



Choosing a Care Team for Your Child's Heart Procedure

Finding out that “*something’s wrong with your child’s heart*” is overwhelming news for any parent. An important decision you need to make next is where to get the pediatric heart care your child needs to give him or her the best chance for a healthy life.

How to Choose a Pediatric Heart Center for Your Child's Heart Procedure



- ☐ **Talk to people you trust.** Start by asking your doctor where he or she would recommend you seek treatment. Ask family members about where they've had good care. Connect with other families who've been on this journey.
- ☐ **Find the medical center that has the most experienced pediatric heart surgeons and interventional cardiologists.** The volume of heart surgeries, cardiac catheterizations, and electrophysiology (EP)/arrhythmia procedures performed is a good measure of predicting results.
- ☐ **Review the hospital's track record.** Looking at the overall success rates for pediatric heart surgeries, arrhythmia, and interventional cardiac procedures can be helpful in deciding where you want to get care for your child.

The **pediatric heart surgeons** at **Betty Irene Moore Children's Heart Center at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford** successfully **treat some of the most critically ill children** — including unborn infants and teens — in the country and the world. Performing more than 600 heart surgeries each year (significantly more than at other children's hospitals in the country), our subspecialty programs and renowned experts draw families seeking the best possible care for their children.

Our pediatric heart surgeons at **Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford** have more than **50 combined years of experience** and are specialized in a range of conditions and treatments from routine to complex, including **pulmonary artery reconstruction**, **heart transplantation**, **coronary anomalies repairs e.g. AAOCA**, and **single ventricle management**. And even though our pediatric heart surgeons treat the most complex cases, our **outcomes are impressive**, and our **patients' lengths of stay are shorter** for the majority of benchmark heart surgeries, than those of other peer hospitals nationwide.

If your child requires a different type of heart procedure, such as a cardiac catheterization and/or arrhythmia procedure, he or she will be in good hands with our interventional cardiologists and electrophysiologists. They treat a **high volume of patients with a variety of heart conditions**, many very complex, which helps them to deepen their expertise and provide our young patients with great outcomes. To this point, **nearly all our arrhythmia procedures' success rates are higher than the national average.**

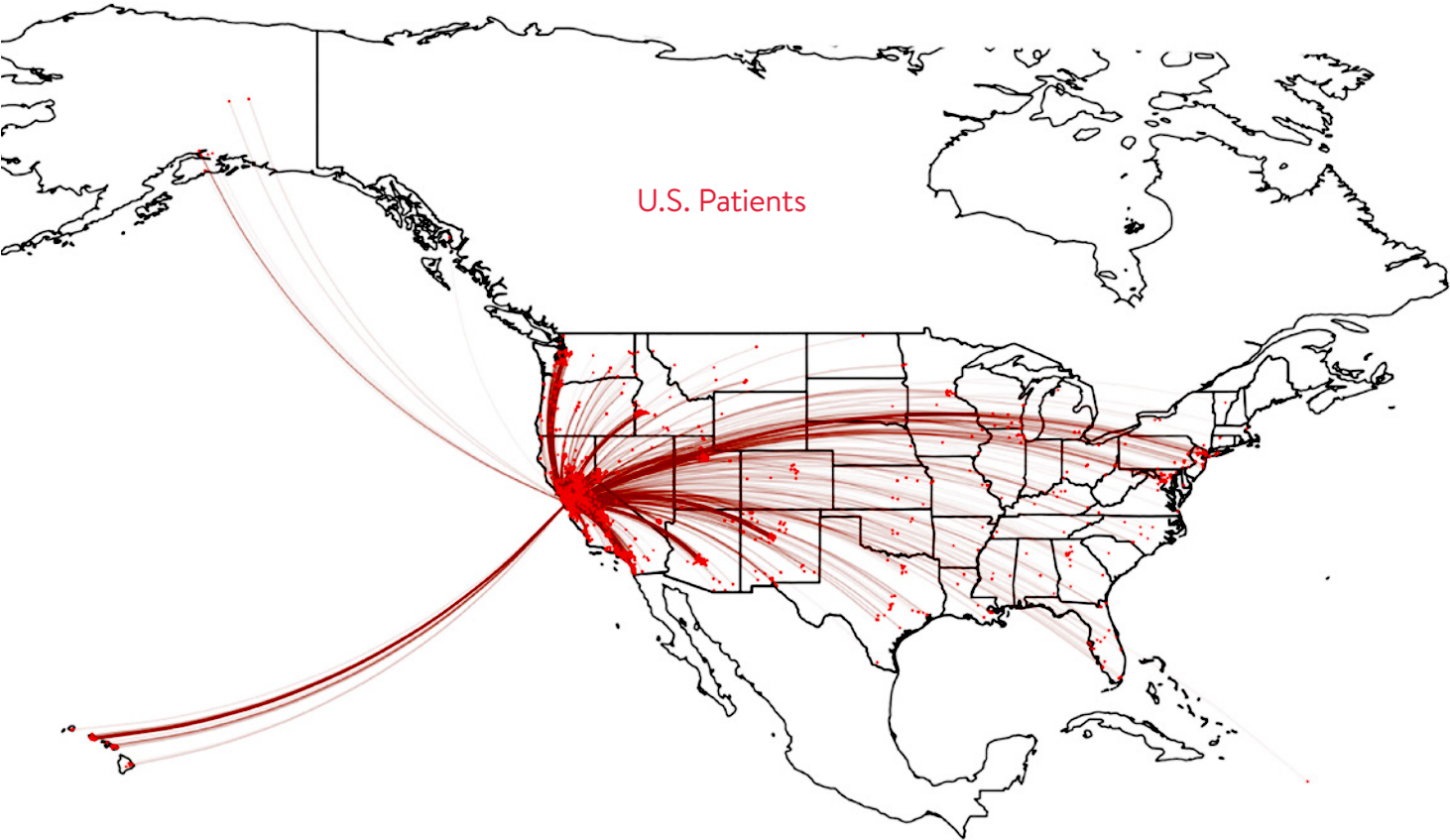
"Our pediatric heart surgeons, interventional cardiologists and electrophysiologists have more than 50 combined years of experience and are specialized in a range of heart conditions and treatments from routine to the most complex."



The Packard Children's Hospital cardiology and heart surgery programs have been nationally ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* consistently over the last 10 years. Visit heartoutcomes.stanfordchildrens.org to see a complete list of national organizations that have access to our hospital's results in heart surgery and related areas.

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital pediatric heart surgery volumes and outcomes

Families travel to Packard Children’s Hospital from all over the country and the world to seek care for their children’s heart needs.

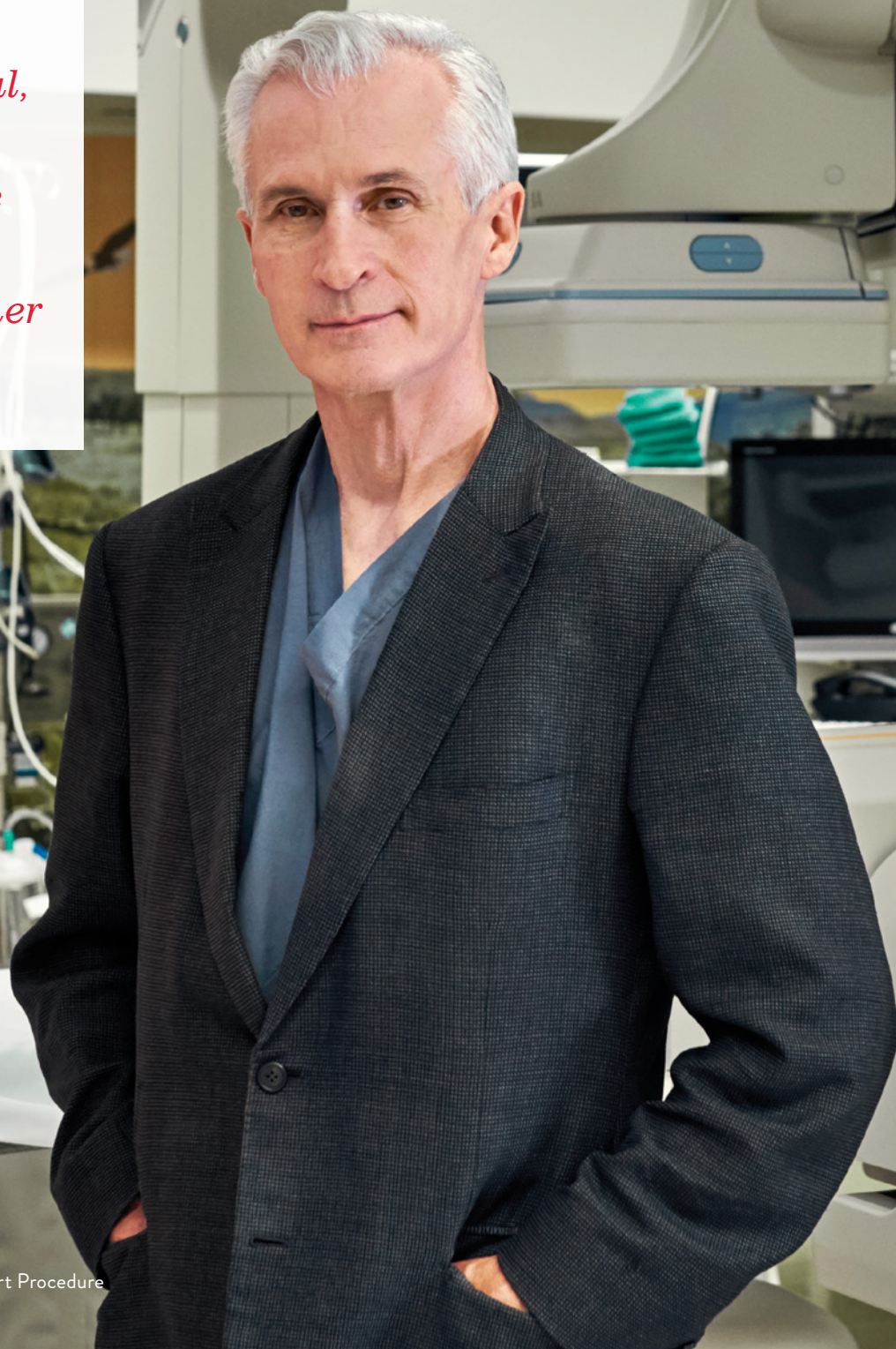


International Patients		
Canada	Japan	Saudi Arabia
Germany	Norway	Switzerland
India	Poland	United Arab Emirates
Israel	Qatar	

Source: Fiscal years 2020-2024 EPSi inpatient and outpatient data



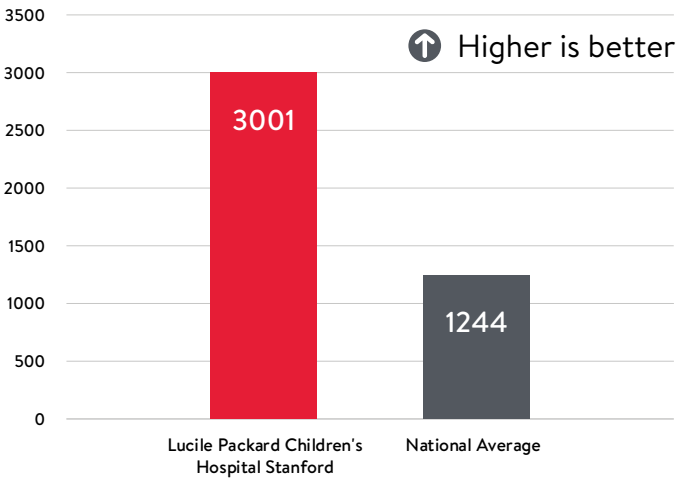
*"At Packard
Children's Hospital,
we've performed
significantly more
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peer hospitals."*



From 2020 through 2024, the Betty Irene Moore Children's Heart Center at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford performed more than **3,000 pediatric heart surgeries**. At other hospitals across the country, that number was an average of 1,244.

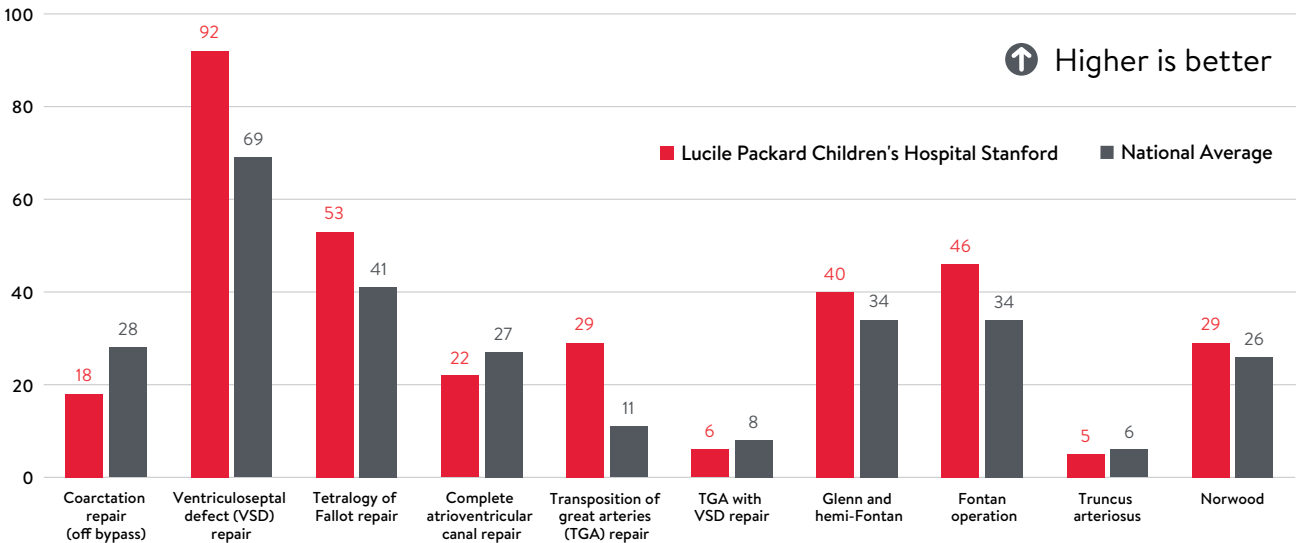
Medical teams who perform a higher number of pediatric heart surgeries are better equipped to care for your child as they see a wider range of heart problems than pediatric heart surgeons who perform only a handful of procedures per year.

Volume of heart surgeries performed 2020–2024



At Packard Children's Hospital, **we've performed a significant number of heart surgeries** for these 10 childhood heart conditions. These procedures are referred to as “benchmark operations”; surgical centers use them for making comparisons.

Volume of heart surgery by specific surgery type 2020–2024



Source: Data Analyses of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Congenital Heart Surgery Database, July 2020–June 2024

The overall pediatric heart surgery **survival rate** at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford was **close to the national average** for 2020–2024. This is truly impressive when you consider that we tackle the hardest, most complex, and rarest heart cases sent to us by other pediatric heart centers across the nation and world.

Overall survival rate following heart surgery 2020–2024

Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford	National aggregate	⬆ Higher is better
96.30%	97.35%	

And in the chart below, you can see that the Packard Children's pediatric heart surgery survival rates were in general **comparable to the national averages** for the 10 benchmark pediatric heart surgeries.

Survival rate for types of heart surgery 2020–2024

Benchmark surgery	Survival rate	
	Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford	National average
Coarctation repair (off bypass)	100.00%	98.96%
Ventriculoseptal defect (VSD) repair	100.00%	99.70%
Tetralogy of Fallot repair	98.21%	99.25%
Complete atrioventricular canal repair	100.00%	97.90%
Transposition of great arteries (TGA) repair	96.40%	98.09%
TGA with VSD repair	85.70%	95.87%
Glenn and hemi-Fontan	97.30%	98.50%
Fontan operation	100.00%	98.98%
Truncus arteriosus	100.00%	93.01%
Norwood	86.00%	91.39%

Source: Data Analyses of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Congenital Heart Surgery Database, July 2020–June 2024

⬆ Higher is better

We perform many heart procedures beyond what is shown in this report—including highly complex procedures for patients who are turned away elsewhere. For more outcomes, visit our website.

"Despite treating the most complex heart cases, our results are impressive."



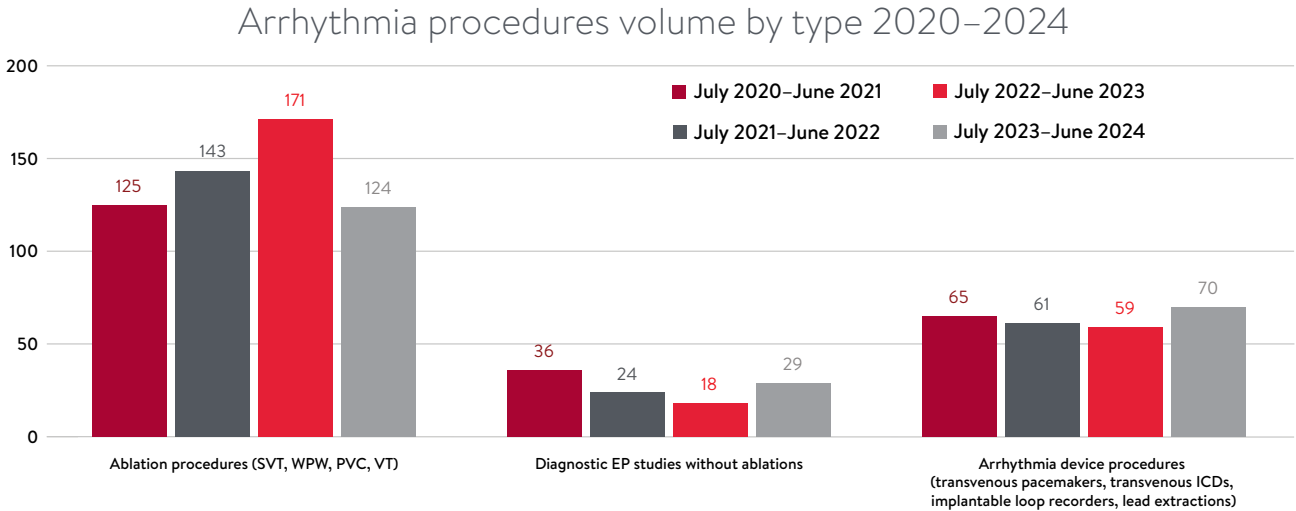
"Our success rate for catheter ablations to treat arrhythmia is generally higher than the national average."



Lucile Packard Children's Hospital arrhythmia procedures volumes and outcomes

At Packard Children’s, we perform arrhythmia diagnostics and procedures for children of all ages who come to us with various types of arrhythmia.

As shown in the chart below, we consistently perform a **high number of electrophysiology studies** (arrhythmia diagnostics) **and arrhythmia procedures**—ablations and device implantations—each year.



At Packard Children’s Hospital, **our success rate for catheter ablations to treat arrhythmia is generally higher than the national average.**

Success rate of catheter ablation for arrhythmia 2020–2024

Arrhythmia type	Success rate	
	Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford	National average
Concealed accessory pathway (concealed AP)	95.1%	94.9%
Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome (WPW)	100.0%	93.1%
Atrioventricular nodal reentry tachycardia (AVNRT)	96.6%	97.4%
Atrial tachycardia	85.7%	85.3%
Ventricular tachycardia	76.5%	74.8%

Children who experience fewer complications after arrhythmia procedures have better outcomes. **On average, our major complication rate for arrhythmia procedures** (as defined below) **is significantly lower than the national average.**

Major complications in arrhythmia procedures 2020-2024

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford	National Average
0.5%	1.6%

Source: American College of Cardiology IMPACT Registry®, July 2020–June 2024; EPIC reports, internal Stanford Children's data, 2020–2024

↓ Lower is better

1. Death, procedural (peri-procedural) within 30 days of procedure and related to procedure	5. Cardiac tamponade (requiring pericardial drainage)
2. Cardiac arrest	6. RBC/whole blood transfusion (w/in 72 hours – due to procedural complication)
3. Embolic stroke	7. Unplanned cardiac or vascular surgery (due to procedural complication)
4. Need for permanent pacemaker	8. ECMO or LVAD due to procedural complication

Source: American College of Cardiology IMPACT Registry®, July 2020–June 2024

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital cardiac catheterization volumes

At Betty Irene Moore Children’s Heart Center, we perform an extremely **high volume of cardiac catheterizations**, placing us in the **top four pediatric heart centers in the country**.

We perform cardiac catheterizations in children of all ages, including premature infants and teens, for a **wide range of heart conditions**.

We are pleased to offer **all types of catheter interventions**. We use the latest interventional cardiology devices—including new innovations discovered through research, clinical trials, and/or collaborations with other organizations—to provide your child with the most advanced heart care and best possible outcome.

Catheterizations volumes 2024

	All patients	Patients younger than 1 month	Patients older than 1 month and younger than 1 year	Patients older than 1 year and younger than 18years	Patients aged 18+
Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford	1034	51	92	707	184

Source: American College of Cardiology IMPACT Registry®, July 2023–June 2024

"Our high volume of cardiac catheterizations places us in the top four pediatric heart centers in the country."



Getting Treatment



- **Plan for your child's birth.** If you are expecting a baby who requires heart care, an interdisciplinary team will partner with you and your obstetrician to ensure that your child starts strong. Members of this team include **pediatric cardiologists, pediatric cardiothoracic surgeons, high-risk obstetricians, neonatologists** and **genetic counselors**.

If your child will require a procedure shortly after birth, we recommend you deliver your baby at Packard Children's Hospital Stanford so that every necessary resource is available.

- **Learn about the procedure your child will have in advance,** so you'll know what to expect afterward. Activity level, appetite, and growth should eventually return to normal after heart surgery/an interventional cardiac procedure. While rare, the most common complications after heart surgery include bleeding, irregular heartbeat, difficulty with feeding, and infection. Complications that can occasionally occur with arrhythmia treatments include cardiac arrest; embolic stroke; cardiac tamponade; blood transfusion; and a need for a pacemaker, a ventricular assist device, ECMO, or cardiac or vascular surgery. We have effective processes and tools in place to help address and limit these complications.
- **Ask questions at every stage** and participate in the medical team's daily rounds, at which time your child's progress is reviewed. In addition to the medical team, numerous staff members can offer information, support, and advice. They include case managers, chaplains, child life specialists, child psychiatrists, dietitians, financial counselors, interpreters, rehab specialists, schoolteachers and social workers.
- **Bond with your child.** For all children but especially for babies, holding, cuddling, and stroking them are vital to creating a relationship with them. We will do our best to enable you to provide comforting touch, and to speak to your child often, when holding is not possible. Some children will be too fragile to be held before or immediately after their heart procedure.

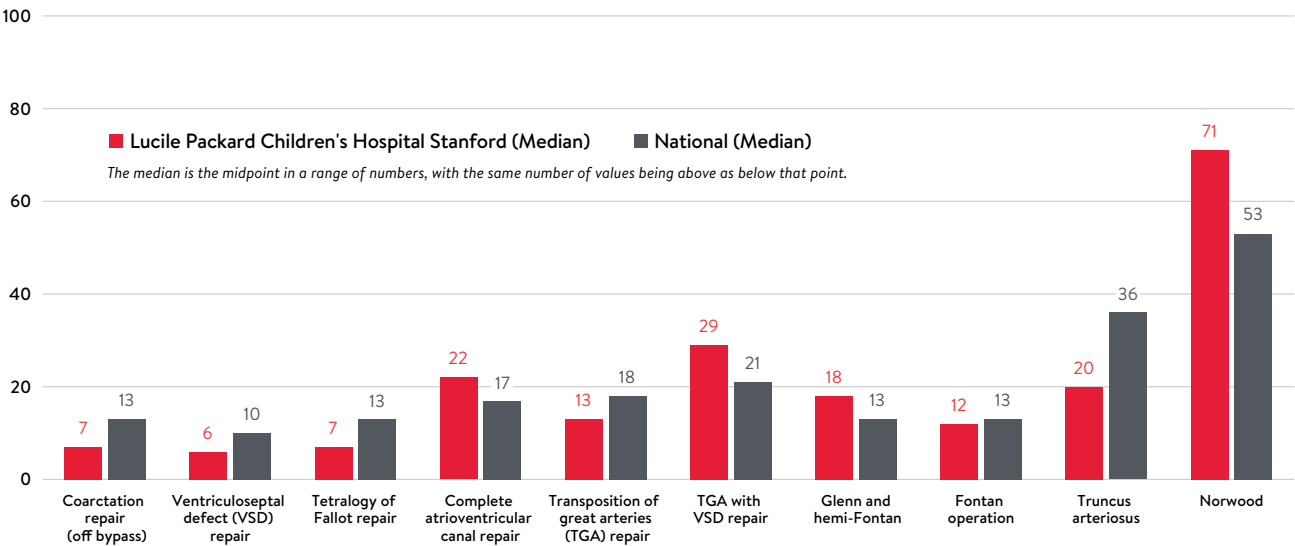
Going Home



Your care team will work with you to decide when is the right time to go home, based on your child's health. There's no one magic number for that date, but at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford we're proud of our efforts to get you home as quickly as possible.

This chart shows the median number of days typically spent in the hospital for these procedures. Since interventional cardiology procedures are less invasive, they typically do not require a significant hospital stay.

Typical days spent in the hospital for types of heart surgery 2020–2024



Source: Data Analyses of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Congenital Heart Surgery Database, July 2020–June 2024

↓ Lower is better

"Our patients stay in the hospital for fewer days for the majority of benchmark pediatric heart surgeries than the national average."



Follow-up Care and Beyond



After your child's heart procedure, your physician will give a progress report to your child's cardiologist.

- ☐ The team will arrange for an office visit with your child's doctor to occur after you take him/her home.
- ☐ As your child gets older, we'll work with you to ensure a smooth transition from childhood to adult heart care.
- ☐ Our **Adult Congenital Heart Program** provides a unique approach to care with a team of doctors who specialize in caring for adolescents and adults with congenital heart disease.

Visit heart.stanfordchildrens.org to learn more about why thousands of families choose us for the advanced heart care their children need, and what we can do for your family.



Contact Us

For more information, visit
heart.stanfordchildrens.org
or call (650) 721-2121.