

CARDIOVASCULAR CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISORDERS CLINIC



The Cardiovascular Connective Tissue Disorders Clinic at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) is a family-centered, multidisciplinary clinic for children and families with connective tissue disorders involving the aorta and blood vessels. We specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions that increase the risk of aortic dilation and development of aneurysms.

OUR TEAM

Led by Stacey Drant, MD, attending cardiologist in CHOP's Cardiac Center, the Cardiovascular Connective Tissue Disorders Clinic is one of few programs of its kind to provide care in clinic from both cardiology and genetics attending physicians, sparing patients multiple appointments for routine follow up. Our in-clinic genetic counselor coordinates genetic testing, provides ongoing support and facilitates connection with additional subspecialties as needed.



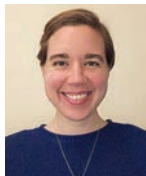
Stacy Drant, MD
Attending Cardiologist



Laura Hennessy, MS, LCGC
Genetic Counselor



Staci Kallish, DO
Clinical Geneticist



Emma Dickinson
Program Manager

Because many patients with connective tissue disorders have associated medical conditions, we also collaborate with multiple subspecialties across CHOP and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP).

CONDITIONS WE TREAT

Many patients treated in the Cardiovascular Connective Tissue Disorders Clinic have a genetic disorder that affects the body's connective tissues, such as Marfan Syndrome, Loeys-Dietz Syndrome and specific forms of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome.

The clinic also treats patients with bicuspid aortic valve and other congenital heart diseases with associated aortic dilation, as well as individuals with a family history of thoracic aortic aneurysm or aortic dissection.

Syndromes known to be associated with aortic involvement include:

- Marfan Syndrome
- Loeys-Dietz Syndrome
- Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (vascular, kyphoscoliosis and valvular types)
- Familial Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection (FTAAD) Syndrome
- Turner Syndrome
- Bicuspid aortic valve
- Congenital heart disease associated with enlargement of the aorta
- Enlargement of the aorta for unknown reasons

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INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT

New patients in the Cardiovascular Connective Tissue Disorders Clinic undergo a personalized evaluation based on their needs and past assessments. This often includes evaluation by our geneticist, genetic counselor and pediatric cardiologist. Genetic testing and imaging such as an echocardiogram, CT and MRI, can determine the root of the patient's symptoms. We also provide second opinions and ongoing care as needed.

Because not all individuals with connective tissue disorders have a clear genetic cause, these patients may be followed for further diagnostic testing. Our team provides preventive medical therapy to slow aortic enlargement and routine imaging to determine if and when surgery is appropriate. Our goal is always to prevent aortic dissection or other complications through medication and accurately timed preventative surgery. Our expertise also includes treatment for any associated abnormalities, including problems with heart valve function and other structural abnormalities of the heart and blood vessels.

In collaboration with the Aortic Center at HUP and CHOP's Pediatric Heart Valve Center, our world-leading cardiothoracic surgeons offer the full spectrum of reparative aortic surgery – from aortic valve repair and valve sparing aortic root replacement (also known as the David V procedure) to total aortic arch replacement and repair of aortic aneurysm and dissection.



INTEGRATIVE, HOLISTIC CARE

Unique to the Cardiovascular Connective Tissue Disorders Clinic is our Lifestyle Medicine Program, based on the six pillars of Lifestyle Medicine, which include nutrition, physical activity, sleep, stress reduction, emotional connectedness and avoiding risky substances. Scientific data supports the impact of these six areas on vascular function, emotional well-being and disease severity.

The Lifestyle Medicine Program offers patients the support of a nutritionist, exercise physiologist and a psychologist to help patients set wellness goals, as well as a health coach to support them in achieving those goals. For patients with limited resources, the health coach also helps identify and connect families with local, affordable services – like community partnerships and supplemental nutrition programs – to help them achieve their health goals.

Overall, the Lifestyle Medicine Program aims to improve patient health, enhance quality of life and potentially delay the need for surgery.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

267-426-9852

LEARN MORE

www.chop.edu/cardiovascular-tissue-clinic

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