

Ongoing Support

From the moment a congenital heart diagnosis is made, our team is here to provide support and know-how to the mother, baby, and family. During pregnancy, each mother and baby's care is coordinated by one nurse clinician who is dedicated to providing education about the heart condition, the care team, our facilities including tours, appointment scheduling, and more.

A genetic counselor offers further support by meeting with each family to discuss the heart condition, including why it may have occurred and the likelihood that a similar abnormality will occur in a future child.

Social workers, child life specialists, counselors, nutritionists, lactation consultants, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, audiologists, and chaplains offer even more support to patients and families allowing for a multidisciplinary approach.



Meet the Nelsons

Baby Reid was born with a congenital heart condition called hypoplastic left heart syndrome. With help from the UAB Fetal Diagnosis and Care Center, Reid is a happy, healthy, and rambunctious two-year old. Visit uabmedicine.org/TinyHearts to read his story.

“**THERE IS** generally one cardiologist who follows each patient throughout his or her childhood and adolescence, so there is a continuity of care, and a comfortable relationship between provider, patient, and family.”

– Division Director of Pediatric Cardiology
YUNG R. LAU, MD

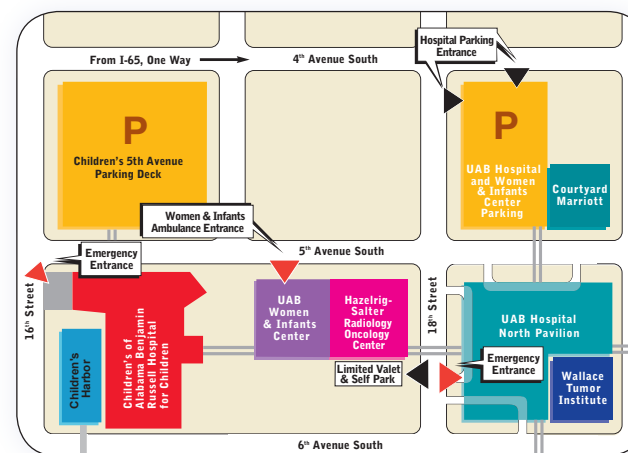
Locations | The UAB Women & Infants Center and Children's of Alabama Benjamin Russell Hospital for Children are located adjacent to each other and connected by a sky bridge.

UAB Fetal Diagnosis and Care Center

UAB Pediatric Cardiology
UAB Women & Infants Center
1700 6th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35294

Joseph S. Bruno Pediatric Heart Center

Children's of Alabama
Benjamin Russell Hospital for Children
1601 5th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35233



Appointments and Information

To learn more, please call UAB HealthFinder at 205-934-9999 (toll-free 800-822-8816). Visit us online at uabmedicine.org/TinyHearts.

To contact the UAB Fetal Diagnosis and Care Center directly, call 205-996-2173.



Children's
of Alabama

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Knowledge that will change your world

800-822-8816 • uabmedicine.org/TinyHearts

The Pediatric Heart Program at Children's of Alabama is ranked among the nation's best by *U.S. News & World Report* 2013-2014.

Mending Tiny Hearts

Fetal Cardiac Diagnosis & Treatment Services



Children's
of Alabama

UAB MEDICINE
Knowledge that will change your world

Your baby's heart, in good hands

When it comes to your baby's heart, knowledge that you've come to the right place for care is everything. At UAB, our fetal heart specialists have the knowledge—specialized training and years of experience—and the tools—a state-of-the-art facility designed specifically to treat high-risk moms and babies—to care for your child's heart from the moment a congenital abnormality is suspected.

No matter the diagnosis, our team collaborates to create the right treatment plan for you and your baby and guides you through the process every step of the way. From pregnancy, through birth, to treatment and beyond, your baby's heart is in good hands at UAB.

Advanced Diagnostics and Teamwork

The UAB Fetal Diagnosis and Care Center is the only clinic of its kind in Alabama and brings together experts in the fields of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Pediatric Cardiology, Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery, Adult Congenital Cardiology, and Neonatology. Congenital heart conditions can be detected as early as 18 to 20 weeks into the pregnancy and in some cases even earlier. If a heart abnormality is suspected, a UAB Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist performs a thorough evaluation of the mother and baby, including a focused assessment of the baby's heart.

After the assessment, the care team meets with the family to discuss the baby's condition and develop a care plan for the mother and child. The family has the opportunity to meet with each member of their care team, including a Maternal-Fetal Medicine physician, a genetics professional, a pediatric cardiologist, a cardiothoracic surgeon, and a neonatologist, to learn

about each member's role and how it pertains to the health of the mother and baby. This family-centered concept allows for a seamless transition of care from Maternal-Fetal Medicine to Pediatric Cardiology specialists, in collaboration with Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeons and Pediatric Cardiac Care Intensivists.

Beyond the medical and surgical team is a group of specially trained and dedicated nurses and other health-related professionals who have a commitment to patient-centered care. The team is comprised of some of the brightest minds, with the most skilled hands and the most compassionate hearts in pediatric medicine.

Experts at Every Step

Your care team will include medical professionals who specialize in caring for moms and babies with heart problems. This combination of expertise means you receive the best care from experts in specialties that include:

- **Maternal-Fetal Medicine physicians, who make the diagnosis and guide you through your pregnancy and delivery**
- **Pediatric cardiologists, who plan your baby's treatment and provide care from birth through childhood and beyond**
- **Adult congenital cardiologists to ensure the cardiovascular health of the mother**
- **Congenital cardiothoracic surgeons, who help evaluate the need for surgical intervention and perform necessary operations**
- **Genetic counselors, who help you understand your baby's condition and what it means to your family and your baby's future**
- **Pediatric cardiovascular anesthetists, who are trained to provide care specifically to newborns with heart conditions**
- **Pediatric cardiac care intensivists, who provide intensive care to newborns and assist with the transition from birth to surgery**
- **Neonatologists, who provide specialized care to newborns with complex needs**
- **Social workers, who provide support with the nonclinical aspects of the family and newborn's care**

“**EVERY MEMBER** of our team works together to make sure that every baby gets the best care.”

– Pediatric Heart Surgeon
ROBERT J. DABAL, MD

State-of-the-Art Facility

The UAB Fetal Diagnosis and Care Center not only brings our experts together, but our state-of-the-art facilities, too. The delivery rooms and Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (RNICU) in the UAB Women & Infants Center are connected by a short sky bridge to the Joseph S. Bruno Pediatric Heart Center at Children's of Alabama.

Our delivery suites are private and feature hotel-like amenities, giving our new moms and families peace of mind. Once the baby arrives, he or she will be stabilized and evaluated in the RNICU at UAB. This level IV nursery is the most equipped in the state to care for sick and premature newborns and is staffed by in-house neonatologists who are available around the clock. After stabilization, newborns requiring cardiac interventions are transferred across the sky bridge into the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) at Children's for further care. The CVICU, the only dedicated pediatric cardiac critical care unit in the state of Alabama and the newest in the Southeast, is a 20-room ICU where babies are closely monitored, receiving one-to-one attention with cardiac-trained pediatric nurses. In all cases, visiting hours are 24/7 for parents and 9 am to 9 pm for family and friends. Parents are encouraged to stay with their babies in the intensive care unit, which features the comforts and amenities of home.



The hybrid catheterization suite, located down the hall, is where both imaging and, if necessary, surgery can be done in the same room while the child is under anesthesia. Heart-specific operating rooms and a dedicated same-day post-anesthesia care unit are also features of the Heart Center.

A Lifetime Relationship

A baby who is diagnosed with a congenital heart defect will likely require care from a cardiologist throughout his or her life. At UAB, our newborns often see the same cardiologist from before birth throughout their childhood. They are then transitioned into our adult congenital heart disease program to ensure a seamless delivery of care. For more information, visit uabmedicine.org/TinyHearts.

“**THERE ARE VERY FEW PLACES** in the country where the labor and delivery is contiguous with the NICU, much less the Children's Hospital. UAB is a unique facility where we are essentially in concept—and physically—connected.”

– Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
JOSEPH BIGGIO, MD

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The number, on average, of fetal cardiac patients UAB treats each year