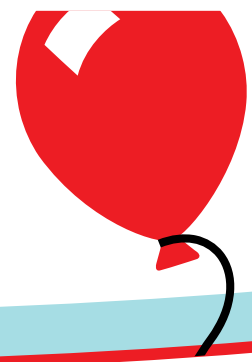


# Balloon Notes

Caring for your child.



## Duodenal Atresia

### What is duodenal atresia?

[Duodenal atresia](#) is a blockage or split of the small intestines that happens before the baby is born. In duodenal atresia, food and liquid is stopped from leaving the developing baby's body. There is no known cause.

### Some duodenal atresia facts

- Duodenal atresia happens because the duodenum doesn't develop properly before the baby is born.
- Babies that cannot take in and put out amniotic fluid normally will have more fluid that surrounds them in the womb (polyhydramnios). This can cause their organs to not form right.
- This is a congenital health problem, which means a baby is born with it.
- Surgery is needed in the first few days after birth to open the blockage.

### What are the types of duodenal atresia?

There are three types of duodenal atresia. They are:

**Type 1** Parts of the duodenum look connected from the outside but aren't. On the inside, they are blocked from each other by mucous and other tissue.

**Type 2** A thin string of tissue joins the split parts of the duodenum.

**Type 3** Parts of the duodenum are fully split.

### What symptoms will my baby have?

- Throwing up shortly after birth can happen. Also, these babies will not be able to eat much.
- Babies with [Down syndrome](#) have a higher chance of duodenal atresia.
- Severe atresia may cause malrotation. In this condition the intestines are twisted or in the wrong position.
- Babies with duodenal atresia may also have baby poop that can cause an infection. This condition is called meconium peritonitis. It happens when pressure builds up from the blockage. This causes meconium (baby poop) to leak from the intestines into the belly.