

Doernbecher Children's Hospital Cardiology Service Brochure
By Judy Berck
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DRAFT

If your child or pediatric patient has a heart ailment, no one has to tell you that you need to choose the highest quality facility for pediatric cardiac care.

With so much at stake in a child's life, you need to evaluate the many hospital choices and choose the leader.

At Doernbecher Children's Hospital's Pediatric Cardiology Service, what will you find?

Leadership in treating pediatric congenital heart defects non-surgically.

Many children's heart defects can be fixed non-surgically in Doernbecher's catheterization laboratory - problems that usually require surgery at other hospitals. For example, our catheter device can fix holes in the heart through an incision in the patient's leg, instead of open-heart surgery. Children can go home the next day after this minimally invasive procedure. Most atrial septal defects and open vessels between the aorta and pulmonary arteries can be routinely treated in our catheterization laboratory. What's more, we offer "hybrid" procedures for some complex cases: with a catheter device placed right in the operating room, catheterization can be combined with surgery.

When it comes to viewing heart defects, Doernbecher's imaging services are outstanding. Our cardiac MRI imaging service for children with complex congenital heart defects is staffed by a member of our cardiac team, who reviews the images and coordinates the studies.

Leadership in treating pediatric arrhythmias, end-stage cardiac failure and other high-risk cases

Children with heart arrhythmias can be helped at Doernbecher in our catheterization lab, often with the result that they can live without long-term medications and their side effects. Even advanced arrhythmia in children and young adults with complex congenital heart disease can be treated. Cutting-edge equipment in our electrophysiology laboratory allows for the "mapping" of complex arrhythmia pathways. Doernbecher has the only pediatric arrhythmia training program in either Oregon or Washington.

Doernbecher is the only facility in Oregon with a special emphasis on children with end-stage heart failure. Many new medications are available that can delay a child's need for a heart transplant. But because each child responds differently to medication, physicians need to carefully adjust the dose for maximum effectiveness and safety (a process called "titration".) At Doernbecher, we pay special attention to titration. What's more, many children with end-stage heart failure are potential cardiac transplant patients. Our heart failure service not only performs the work-ups and evaluations for these patients, but cares for them following their heart transplant.

Children with pulmonary artery hypertension are another high-risk group. Often, these children require newer medications for effective treatment. Many of these newer medications are titrated in our catheterization lab to determine their peak effectiveness.

Leadership in pediatric cardiac surgery.

With more than twice as many cardiac experts as other children's heart programs in the state, Doernbecher's pediatric cardiac surgery program has an international reputation for innovative and non-invasive techniques.

The pediatric cardiac services unit has a close collaborative relationship with the pediatric cardiac surgical team, as well as the doctors and nurses in the pediatric intensive care unit. The surgical outcomes of the children in our program match the best and largest programs in North America -- a direct consequence of this collaborative care.

Post-operative patients are cared for in our unique pediatric intensive care unit, which provides continuous 24/7 faculty coverage of post-operative cases.

Leadership in pediatric and pre-natal echocardiography.

Doernbecher offers an outstanding echocardiography service staffed by a team of highly experienced sonographers -- all specifically trained in pediatric imaging. Doernbecher has the only pediatric echocardiography lab in the region accredited by the ICAEL -- an international echocardiography standards organization. This combination of staffing and technology results in better imaging, with more data available for better care.

In addition to standard imaging through the chest wall, we commonly perform fetal echocardiograms to assess for heart defects in high-risk pregnancies. We routinely perform echocardiography in all children undergoing open heart surgical procedures. Echocardiography is also used to assist in the placement of closure devices in the catheterization laboratory.

Leadership in training and research.

Doernbecher has the only cardiac service in the region that is associated with an academic institution. This means that not only does it provide the best clinical care available, but it is also responsible for teaching the next generation of pediatric cardiologists. This academic affiliation means that Doernbecher patients have access to the latest cutting-edge technology – equipment that is not available at smaller hospitals – as well as access to clinical trials and new medications before they are publicly available. Our pediatric cardiology fellowship program is the only such program in the Pacific Northwest.

Leadership across the state of Oregon.

Doernbecher has ten different cardiac clinics across the state of Oregon, including Salem, Albany, Medford, Eugene, La Grande, and Coos Bay. These regional clinics offer consultations to new patients, echocardiography labs, on-going care for children with congenital heart disease as well as post-operative care -- so that families don't have to come back to Portland for follow-up care. Patients receive the same level of care and expertise they receive in Portland, but with the convenience of a community clinic.

Leadership in Physician Staffing.

Ross Ungerleider, M.D.

Specialty: Cardiothoracic Surgery

Dr. Ungerleider came to Doernbecher in December, 2000 after having spent 24 years at Duke University. Besides being a nationally recognized expert for Ross Procedures and all forms of complex heart surgery in infants, he has helped develop many of the current cardiopulmonary bypass techniques and is a worldwide authority on brain protection techniques for infants undergoing heart surgery.



Choose the leader in pediatric cardiology services for the care of your patient or child.

Choose Doernbecher Children's Hospital.