

HEART INSTITUTE



The Heart Institute at Children's Hospital Los Angeles is the largest pediatric cardiac center in the Western United States and has expertise handling all forms of pediatric and congenital heart disease, from the most common to the rarest and most complex cases. There is no cardiac condition that the Heart Institute's specialists cannot treat.

Beginning with the first pediatric heart surgery in the Western U.S. in the 1930s, the Heart Institute has a history of treating small hearts with big problems. Nearly a century later, the Institute is renowned for taking the most challenging cases and maintaining impressive health outcomes.

Consistently ranked among the top pediatric cardiac programs in the United States by U.S. News & World Report, the Heart Institute provides an integrated suite of inpatient and outpatient services that bring together specialists in cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, heart transplant, cardiac intensive care, cardiac acute care, cardiac anesthesia and cardiovascular rehabilitation in one centralized location. The Heart Institute's scope of care ranges from treating babies in the womb to adolescents and young adults, ensuring all patients can live up to their full potential.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

The Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery is one of the most robust programs of its kind in the nation, performing more than 800 heart surgeries every year. We have experts in every area of pediatric cardiology. These specialists include heart rhythm doctors, catheterization experts, critical care specialists, geneticists and more. Our collective expertise and close collaboration translate into excellent outcomes for our patients.

Division of Cardiology

The Division of Cardiology cares for children with heart or blood vessel problems and is a leader in advanced evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of all forms of pediatric heart disease. Our state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization lab uses the latest technology to provide clear, accurate data while reducing the radiation required for minimally invasive procedures such as angioplasty, valvuloplasty and stent insertion.

Interventional Catheterization Program

Our experienced interventional cardiologists offer all types of cardiac catheterization procedures. They work closely with the Heart Institute's other cardiologists, electrophysiologists, heart surgeons and critical care experts to provide comprehensive care. Our team has one of the best safety records in the country for cardiac catheterizations. In addition, the Interventional Catheterization Program uses rotational imaging and has the ability to create 3D images of the heart and vessels.

Heart Transplant Program

More than 25 years ago, Children's Hospital Los Angeles established the first dedicated Heart Transplant Program at a freestanding pediatric hospital in Southern California. Our surgeons have experience performing transplants in young patients who have a variety of complex, high-risk conditions. Specialists provide complete pre-transplant evaluations and manage the needs of patients and their families throughout the process of awaiting and receiving a transplant. Our post-transplant success is exemplary and is achieved by a coordinated team of specialists.

Fetal Cardiology Program

The Fetal Cardiology Program, which is dedicated to diagnosing babies with heart defects before birth, is one of the most sophisticated programs of its kind in California. Every year, our experts participate in more than 800 outpatient consultations to diagnose neonatal heart defects. The team also provides customized treatment plans, so expectant mothers receive personalized care during pregnancy, delivery and after their baby arrives.

Cardiogenomics Program

The Cardiogenomics Program is the only multidisciplinary clinic of its kind in Southern California providing comprehensive care for children and adolescents with suspected genetic or inherited cardiac conditions. Using genetic testing, specialists in cardiology and genetics collaborate to identify children at risk for life-threatening heart conditions, provide family education and implement preventative therapies.

Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit (CTICU)

Our CTICU was the first of its kind in the Western United States. More than half of the unit's patients are newborns with congenital heart conditions, many of whom require innovative treatments. Novel technologies—along with the attentive care of dedicated specialists and nurses—give patients the best chance to achieve a full recovery as quickly as possible. The CTICU has received the prestigious Gold Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

Among other specialties, the Institute is home to the:

- Cardiac Electrophysiology and Device Program
- Cardiac Myopathy and Heart Failure Program
- Complex Congenital Heart Disease Program
- Kawasaki Disease Program
- Pulmonary Hypertension Program
- Single Ventricle and Fontan Program

ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Heart Institute at Children's Hospital Los Angeles is a preeminent referral center for diseases of the heart and circulation in childhood, attracting families from across the United States and around the world. Each component of care has been designed with children and families in mind.

- The Heart Institute has been a leader in pediatric cardiac care for nearly 90 years and has achieved many firsts, including performing the first pediatric open-heart surgery in Southern California and performing the first multilobar lung transplant from living parents to a child with cystic fibrosis. In 2022, CHLA physicians performed the hospital's first heart-liver transplant, just the 17th done in the nation.
- In 2022, the Cardiac Catheterization team was the first in the world to implant a cardiac stent designed specifically for babies and young children that can be expanded with a child's growing body all the way to adulthood.
- The Heart Institute's physician-scientists and researchers are involved in more than 100 current research endeavors, publishing their work in more than 60 publications annually. Team members are engaged in several national and international multicenter trials testing novel treatments for childhood heart disease, including using stem cell injections to grow new heart muscle, and gene therapies for disorders of the heart and circulation.
- The ECMO Program has been honored with the prestigious Award for Excellence in Life Support by the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization, an international group of health care professionals who evaluate hospital treatment therapies for patients fighting complex cardiac disease and respiratory failure.
- The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation has designated CHLA as a Cardiomyopathy Center of Care, meaning we have cardiomyopathy (heart muscle disease) specialists and offer advanced treatment options.

REFERRALS, ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT SERVICES

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