

Congenital heart disease can have a range of symptoms, because the condition refers to several different types of heart defect. General signs of congenital heart disease can include: a blue tinge to the skin or lips (cyanosis) rapid breathing rapid heartbeat swelling in the legs, tummy and around the eyes shortness of breath in babies during feeding

Diagnosis after the birth It's sometimes possible to diagnose a baby with congenital heart disease shortly after birth if some of the characteristic signs or symptoms of congenital heart disease, such as a blue tinge to the skin or lips (cyanosis), are present. The examination involves observing your baby, feeling their pulse, and listening to their heart with a stethoscope. Heart problems that were missed during foetal echocardiography can sometimes be detected as a child develops.

Electrocardiogram An electrocardiogram (ECG) is a test that measures the heart's electrical activity. The machine displays the electrical signals produced by the heart and shows how well it's beating. Heart murmurs are sometimes picked up. However, some defects don't cause any noticeable symptoms for several months or even years. Further testing can usually help to confirm or rule out a diagnosis.

Echocardiography An echocardiogram is often used to check the inside of the heart. These are connected by wires to an ECG recording machine. Your baby's heart will be checked as part of the newborn physical examination. Sticky sensors called electrodes are attached to the arms, leg and chest.

Chest X-ray A chest X-ray of the heart and lungs can be used to check whether there's an excess amount of blood in the lungs, or whether the heart is larger than normal. You should see your GP if you or your child shows signs of the condition. Both may be signs of heart disease