

Funnel Chest/Pigeon Breast

FACTS:

- The child with a funnel chest has a depression in the center of their chest, which may appear quite deep.
- See a doctor if the depression is deep as the heart and lungs may be affected.
- Funnel chest can be caused by rickets or may be passed down from birth parents. In most cases the cause is unknown.
- With pigeon breast, a child's breastbone and chest are pushed forward.
- Pigeon breast affects more boys than girls. It usually appears in girls early in life and in boys later as they grow.
- Pigeon breast is less common than funnel chest, and the cause is unknown
- Both funnel chest and pigeon breast may be mild or severe and can be associated with scoliosis, respiratory problems and heart defects.
- Both conditions may cause difficulty playing and exercising. Growing children may experience chest pain, tenderness and pain in the breastbone area.



Funnel chest is where a child's chest "goes in."



Pigeon chest is where a child's chest "pushes out."

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TREATMENT:

- If a child has either chest condition, he or she should be seen by a doctor.
- These conditions can be diagnosed with an x-ray.
- Mild cases may correct themselves as the child grows.
- Surgery is advised if the chest defect is moderate to severe or the child experiences breathing difficulties or chest pain from exercise. See a doctor immediately if this happens.



These conditions are very common.



Children with these conditions are easily adopted.