

## PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY:

### "Skipped Beats", "Hard Beats", or Irregular Heart Rhythm

<b>History suggesting benign diagnosis</b>	<b>Contributing Factors</b>	<b>Likely Benign Diagnoses</b>	<b>Management</b>	<b>Screening Tests</b>	<b>Referral - When Cardiac Disease Can Be Expected</b>
Occurs mostly at night or at rest		Benign PACs or PVCs	Reassurance for the family that this is a variant of normal	A baseline ECG may be performed as a screening test only, but is not required.	Sustained palpitations that start & stop suddenly
Irregular rhythm on exam in an otherwise healthy, asymptomatic child	Rhythm varies with the respiratory cycle	Normal sinus arrhythmia	None	ECG will confirm the diagnosis	
Patient complains of a single hard beat followed by a pause	Usually at rest; events are not felt with activity	Benign PACs or PVCs	Reassurance for the family that this is a variant of normal	A baseline ECG may be performed as a screening test only, but is not required	Sustained palpitations that start & stop suddenly

Referral to Pediatric Cardiology: Fax (203) 737 2786, Telephone (203) 785 2022.