

Glossary

B.4.5. Cardiac Sounds and Murmurs

Cardiac Sounds	Sounds, picked up for example with a stethoscope, that are caused by the closure of the heart valves during a contraction or by rapid flow of the blood inside the heart.
Cardiac murmurs	Abnormal heart sounds caused by an abnormal function of the cardiac valves or abnormal flow of blood into or out of the heart.
Valvular stenosis	A malfunction of the cardiac valves, caused by atherosclerosis or an infection, whereby they can no longer open fully when necessary.
Valvular regurgitation	A malfunction of the cardiac valves whereby they can no longer close properly, leading to leakage of the blood into the wrong chamber. Also called valvular incompetence.
Diastolic murmur	An abnormal cardiac sound that occurs during the diastole, for example caused by mitral stenosis.
Systolic murmur	An abnormal cardiac sound that occurs during the systole, for example caused by mitral regurgitation.