

PJRT

PJRT stands for "Permanent Junctional Reciprocating Tachycardia". PJRT is a type of supraventricular tachycardia (or "SVT") with a fast heart rate that is usually between 120 and 200 beats/minute. It occurs most often in early childhood.

PJRT is a terrible name for this condition. Cardiologists once thought PJRT was permanent and that it starts in a portion of the heart called the "junction". But we now know that it is neither permanent nor junctional. It is caused by having a specific type of extra or "accessory" pathway from the top chambers of the heart to the bottom chambers of the heart that is very active. This very active accessory pathway makes PJRT occur incessantly, meaning it is very frequently happening. Usually it is extremely challenging to control PJRT with medications, so most patients require a curative medical procedure called an ablation to eliminate the accessory pathway.

The incessant nature of PJRT may result in dilated cardiomyopathy and heart failure; these changes are potentially reversible if the accessory pathway can be successfully ablated.



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