Pectus carinatum

What is pectus carinatum?
Pectus carinatum is commonly referred to as “pigeon chest.” It occurs when there is an abnormal protrusion of the anterior chest wall resulting in the sternum (breastbone) and ribs sticking out. It is more common in males than females.

What to expect at your appointment:
Your child will be seen and evaluated in our Pediatric Surgery clinic by one of our pediatric surgeons and/or the physician assistant (PA). Surgical correction typically is not required.

How is pectus carinatum treated?
Children with early pectus carinatum can wear a custom-fitted chest-wall brace. This brace provides compression to the back and front of the chest to “reform” the breastbone. The brace is made up of compression plates that are connected to aluminum bars. It is easily hidden underneath clothing. The brace needs to be worn for 14 to 16 hours a day for at least two years. Progress and effectiveness of the brace is followed by our office every six months.

Pediatric Surgery team
Kara Cole, PA-C
John Draus, Jr, MD
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Contact information:
Pediatric Surgery office/clinic: 859-323-5625
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
After hours, please call 859-323-5321 and ask for the on-call Pediatric Surgery resident.