PDA vs Coarctation of the Aorta

Two common congenital heart diseases told apart by auscultation and pulses

PDA — Patent ductus arteriosus

- continuous "machinery" murmur
- bounding pulses
- wide pulse pressure
- frequent in premature infants

CoA — Coarctation of the aorta

- hypertension in the arms
- weak or delayed femoral pulses
- rib notching on X-ray
- associated with Turner syndrome and bicuspid valve

PDA
Continuous machinery murmur

Coarctation
Arm hypertension + weak femoral pulses

Drugs
PGE1 keeps the ductus open; indomethacin closes it

Indomethacin or ibuprofen closes the ductus; prostaglandins (PGE1) keep it open in duct-dependent heart disease