

hypospadias

what is hypospadias?

Hypospadias is a congenital (this means it happens while the baby is growing and is present at birth) defect where the urethral opening (where your child's urine comes out) isn't located at the tip of the penis (normal position.) A mild form of hypospadias occurs when the opening is just directly below the normal position (tip of the penis). A more severe form occurs when the opening may be at the base of the scrotum. Hypospadias is often associated with a downward curve of the penis (also called chordee). Also, there is too much foreskin on the top of the penis and it is not attached on the underside of the penis.

The cause is complex and unknown except that it occurs during fetal development, usually between 8 and 20 weeks of development. Hypospadias is usually diagnosed at birth.

Hypospadias happens 1 in 150 to 300 births.

Very mild forms may not lead to any problems in adulthood. More severe forms of hypospadias and chordee may cause difficulty with sexual function in adulthood, and make it very difficult to urinate in the standing position.

what is the treatment?

Mild forms of hypospadias may not cause any problems and can be left alone. The most severe cases may need to be fixed with surgery.

what is hypospadias repair?

Hypospadias repair is usually an outpatient procedure. This means that you come to the hospital for the surgery but are not admitted. In the very rare and most severe cases of hypospadias, more than one surgery may be needed to bring the urethra to the normal position. The surgery normally takes about one to two hours. There are many excellent techniques for hypospadias repair. Usually, the penis is circumcised at the same time as the hypospadias repair, unless you request otherwise.

Hypospadias repair is normally performed after the age of 6 months. It is best done before the child goes through the stage of sexual awareness between ages of 18 and 24 months so the child does not remember surgery. It is also better for the child if surgery is done before potty training.

what to expect after surgery

Your child would be under general anesthesia so that they are asleep for the surgery. If you have questions about this, please ask the anesthesiologist. This is the person that helps your child fall asleep.

Your child may have a small soft-tube (stent) placed in the urethra after surgery. The stent is held in place with a small stitch. The stent allows the child to urinate spontaneously and to help with healing and swelling after surgery. The stent will be removed two to three weeks after surgery in the urologist's office.



what to expect after surgery (continued)

If your child has a stent in place, he will be placed on an antibiotic until the stent is removed. He will not be able to be in bath water until the stent is removed. The surgeon will also give your child a prescription for pain medication for the first few days after surgery.

There will also most likely be a clear bandage wrapped around the penis after surgery. This bandage will fall off by itself anywhere from the same day to one week. The only concern is if the bandage rolls up and gathers at the base of the penis and constricts the penis (like a rubber band). If this should happen, call the office immediately.

complications after surgery

Infection and bleeding can occur, but are rare. More common complications are fistula (opening between urethra and skin) or meatal stenosis (small urine hole). If this happens, your child may need another surgery. Less common complications are strictures (narrowing of the urethra), stone formation, diverticulum (where a sac forms outside of the urethra wall) and glans dehiscence (where the head of the penis that was closed over the new urinary channel comes back open).

restrictions:

- If your child has a stent, he is not allowed to sit in water until the stent is removed.
- Older children may miss one to two days of school.
- He may return to sports after stent has been removed.

call our office for any of the following:

- Fever
- Change in drainage from stent
- Increased pain not controlled by medications
- Stent falls out

Call for any questions. Our office number is 937-641-3466. We are available Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

