Caring for Your Child
Hypospadias Repair with a Drainage Tube (Stent)

What is Hypospadias?

Hypospadias is a condition in which the opening from which a boy urinates (the meatus) is not located at the end of the penis. In a baby born with hypospadias, the opening can be located anywhere from just below the tip of the penis to the scrotum, and occasionally below the scrotum.

Why was my son born with hypospadias?

We know many things about how to treat hypospadias. We know less about why it occurs. We do know that it occurs in about one out of every 100 baby boys. Very rarely, hypospadias is inherited. Hypospadias is not due to something the mother did or did not do during pregnancy.

Can hypospadias be corrected?

Almost all children with hypospadias can be surgically corrected to look and function normally. There are different ways to correct hypospadias. The method depends on the surgeon, where the urinary opening is on the child's penis, and whether other conditions are present. In most cases, your child's penis will look like a normal circumcised penis with barely visible scars.

How long is the surgery?

Your surgeon will tell you how long he expects your child's surgery to last. The length of surgery depends on the degree of hypospadias.

What to Expect After Your Child's Surgery

Appearance

After surgery, your son's penis and scrotum will be red, swollen and/or bruised. This is normal. It will get better with time. His urine may be light pink. You may see some spots of blood on his diaper. This is also normal.
Dressing

The surgeon will place a bandage over the penis after surgery. Your child’s urine will drain through a drainage tube. Some oozing of blood is normal. If your child has bleeding that is soaking the dressing, apply gently pressure, not letting go, for 10 full minutes. If he continues to bleed, call the urology office.

If the bandage falls off, do not replace it. Your doctor will tell you when to remove the dressing.

Before removing the bandage, have your son sit in a plain, warm bath for 15 minutes. This will help loosen the bandage. Be careful not to pull on the tube when removing the bandage.

Drainage Tube

The surgeon will place a small, soft, white, flexible tube or a urethral stent in the penis during surgery. You will see a stitch at the tip of the penis. This stitch holds the tube in place. The urine will drip continuously through the end of the tube into the diaper. No special care is needed.

Your doctor will tell you how your child’s tube will come out.

- Some tubes fall out home. Your doctor will tell you if your child has this type of tube that falls out at home. The tube will usually fall out within 4-7 days after surgery.
- Other tubes need to be taken out in the office. If your child has this kind of tube, please schedule a post-operative appointment with your doctor. They will tell you when they want to remove it.

If you notice that urine is not draining from your son’s stent, or if his diaper has been dry for four hours, check to see if the stent is kinked. If not, try to change your son’s position (for example, from lying down to sitting up). If this does not work and urine is still not draining, please do the following:

***It may be helpful to have someone help you hold your son during this procedure***

Supplies:

- 10ml Syringe
- Bottle of Sterile Water

1. Draw up 10ml of sterile water into the syringe.
2. Twist the tip of the syringe into the end of the stent.
3. Slowly put the 10ml of water into the stent. Once the water is in, slowly pull back on the syringe until the water comes back out or until you feel a tug. You do not need to remove all 10ml of water.
4. **If you cannot** push the water into the stent, **do not force** the water. Stop and call your urologist.
5. Untwist the syringe from the stent.
6. Urine should begin to drain from the stent.

If urine stops dripping from the tube, you may need to flush the tube with water. You will be taught how to do this after your child’s surgery.

**After the dressing is removed:**

If your son’s diaper or underwear sticks to his penis, warm water will help to loosen it.

- Apply a large amount of Vaseline or A&D ointment to the front of the diaper with diaper changes. This will help wound healing and it will keep the diaper from sticking to the penis.
- As your child begins to heal, the healing tissue may change in color and consistency. It may look red, yellow and/or crusty.
- There may be some crusting or scabbing over the incision. This will fall off by itself. New skin will replace it.

**Bathing**

Once the dressing is off, you should bathe your son in a tub of plain clean water deep enough to cover his penis. Please hold your son’s arms so that he cannot pull on the tube.

**Diet**

Your child can begin eating when he gets home. Start with clear liquids (apple juice, Popsicles, water ice). Add solid food slowly and in small amounts. Your child may vomit from anesthesia on the day of surgery. This should stop by the morning after surgery. Call the urology office if the vomiting does not stop.

Give your son extra fluids to keep his urine clear and keep the stent from becoming blocked.

**Bowel Movements**

Your child should have regular bowel movements. Give him juices, fruits and vegetables to prevent straining. Do not let him get constipated. If your child does not have a bowel movement 24 hours after surgery, you may give him a pediatric glycerin suppository. These are available over the counter at your local pharmacy. Follow the directions on the label.

If your child has a bowel movement and it gets on the penis, do not worry. It can be washed off with running water.
Medication

- **Pain:** Your surgeon will prescribe pain medication to be sure that your child is comfortable. The directions for the medications will be reviewed with you before your discharge.

- **Spasms:** Children who have drainage tubes may have muscle cramps of the bladder, also known as bladder spasms. Your son may cry or pull his legs to his chest during these spasms. Your doctor may order Ditropan (Oxybutynin) to help relieve these spasms. Give the Ditropan every eight hours for the first 2 days after the surgery. Usually spasms decrease after that and Ditropan can be given as needed. Not all pharmacies stock Ditropan. Please call your local pharmacy before the surgery to make sure that they have this medicine in stock.

Your doctor will also order an antibiotic to help prevent infection.

Activity

Your child may not ride straddle toys (bikes, walkers, swings) for 2 full weeks after surgery. You should continue to use your car seat.

Follow-up

Call the urology clinic (215) 590-2754 to make an appointment for your postoperative visit. If your child’s drainage tube is still in place, the doctor will remove it during this appointment.

**Call The Doctor If Your Child Has:**

- Fever above 101.5°F by mouth or over 102.5°F rectally
- A tube that looks like it is falling out, if the tube falls out, or if urine is not dripping out of the tube
- A hard or large belly or abdomen (distended bladder)
- Continued vomiting the day after surgery, cannot keep fluids down
- Infection of surgery site: green or yellow drainage from the incision, foul odor
- Urine draining from the incision
- Bleeding that does not stop with gentle pressure
- Bleeding that comes out beyond the edges of the dressing
- Pain not relieved by the pain medication or Ditropan

**Telephone Numbers**

- **Urology office:** Monday-Friday, 8:00am - 4:00pm - (215) 590-2754
- **Evenings, Weekends, Holidays:** (215) 590-1000, ask to speak with the Urologist on call.

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