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Pediatric Urology

## Hypospadias Repair: What to Expect After Surgery

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Hypospadias (hi-poe-SPAY-dee-us) occurs when the opening of the urethra is on the underside of the penis, instead of the tip. (The urethra is the tube that drains urine from the bladder to the outside of the body.) This condition is common. Surgery usually restores the normal appearance of the penis.

*Here are questions parents often have about what to expect after this repair surgery.*

### What can my son eat?

Your son can eat normally as soon as you are home. Give your son lots of fluids to keep his urine clear.

Some children may have nausea or vomiting from the anesthesia for a short time. If this happens to your son, his appetite soon will return to normal. At that point, he can eat his regular diet.

### What activities can he do?

There is no need to restrict the activities of infants. For older children, please urge quiet play such as watching TV and playing board games. Avoid contact sports, gyms, sandboxes, bicycles and straddling toys.

### Will my child need a catheter?

Yes, your child will go home with a catheter. If your child wears a diaper, the catheter will drain into the diaper. Use two diapers for added protection and cushioning. Your nurse will show you how to arrange double diapers. Blood in the diaper is normal. So is some blood in the catheter.

If your child is older, the catheter will drain into a bag on his leg. Some urine may leak around the tube. This is common and poses no problem as long as most of the urine drains through the tube. Excessive leaking might indicate that the tube is blocked.

### What about medications?

Your child will have three medications to take home. First is an antibiotic (Cephalexin) that he should take three times a day.

Second is Tylenol with codeine. Give it every four hours as needed for pain (see below).

Finally, oxybutynin should be taken three times a day to help prevent bladder spasms until the catheter is removed. Oxybutynin may cause a dry mouth and flushing (redness) of the face. Encourage your child to drink lots of fluids.

### Will my child be in pain?

Most children will receive a nerve block during surgery to reduce pain. This block will wear off in 4-6 hours.

To help prevent pain afterward, start giving your son Tylenol with codeine about 4 hours after surgery, even if he seems comfortable. If he appears to be in pain, give the medication earlier. **Plain Tylenol can be used in place of Tylenol with codeine if the pain is not severe.**

### What will cover the wound?

Your son will go home with an outside dressing of clear plastic over gauze. It probably will become bloody **underneath** the plastic. This is normal.

If it becomes soiled from urine and stool, do not remove the dressing unless there is stool on the gauze underneath it.

If the dressing has stool on the outside, gently clean the area with soapy water, wiping the stool away from your child's penis. Some blood on the diaper is normal. So is blood in the catheter. Do not put powder or ointment on the genital area.

Remove the outer dressing (both plastic and gauze) two days after surgery. Be careful with the tube—it is held in place by a stitch at the end of the penis. You will see an inner plastic dressing that can be left in place.

Expect some swelling and bruising of the penis and scrotum. Both will go away in time. Some oozing from the penis with spotting on the diaper also is normal.

### **Can my son take a bath?**

Sponge-bathe your child until the catheter is removed. When you resume regular bathing, use warm water without soap first. Don't scrub the area and don't directly wash the penis—just let the water soak the area. Gently pat the area dry with a clean towel.

### **Will my son be able to sleep?**

Some children change their sleep patterns. They may be sleepy during the day and up at night. This is just a temporary change.

### **When should I call the doctor?**

Please call the doctor if your child has any of the following:

- Temperature greater than 101°F
- Excessive bleeding (soaking through the dressing and into the diaper)
- Extreme agitation
- Pain that is not controlled with medication
- No urine from the catheter for more than 3 hours

### **What if I have questions?**

During office hours, please call Pediatric Urology at **(864) 454-5135**. After hours, call **(864) 455-9390** and ask for the pediatric urologist on call.