



## **Posterior Urethral Valves**

Posterior urethral valves (PUV) are a congenital abnormality that causes obstruction in the male urethra. The urethra is the tube that drains the bladder. The blockage caused by posterior urethral valves can result in an increase of pressure in the bladder, ureters and kidneys. The increase in pressure of the urinary tract system may result in kidney damage.

Due to increased prenatal screening with ultrasounds, posterior urethral valves can often be diagnosed, or at least strongly suspected, in utero (prior to the child's birth). A kidney ultrasound and voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) will be performed to confirm diagnosis. If your son has posterior urethral valves a urinary catheter is inserted to allow the bladder to drain immediately. Children may present later in life with posterior urethral valves after a work-up due to urinary tract infections or trouble urinating. Surgical intervention includes endoscopic resection of the tissue.