



Ureterocele

Ureteroceles are a congenital anomaly (present at birth). The ureter or kidney tube that is closest to the bladder is enlarged and forms what looks like a balloon. The ureterocele may remain inside the bladder or may drop down into the urethra making it difficult to urinate. A child with an ureterocele is at increased risk for urinary tract infections, vesicoureteral reflux, and difficulty urinating.

Most oftentimes ureteroceles are diagnosed by an ultrasound. A voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) is also typically done to look for the presence of kidney reflux. Children are usually placed on preventative antibiotics to reduce their risk of infection after diagnosis is made. The treatment for an ureterocele often includes surgical intervention. The surgery needed is based on the age of the patient, whether the affected portion of the kidney is functioning, and whether vesicoureteral reflux is present.