

Department of Urology

Patient Information Sheet

Hypospadias Repair

Surgical repair of a birth defect of the penis to move the urethral opening

This procedure involves surgically moving the opening through which your son passes urine (the urethral meatus) from its current abnormal position to one closer to normal, at the tip of the penis. The exact nature of the operation is decided when your son is examined fully whilst under an anaesthetic, following which the surgeon will proceed as necessary.

This information sheet was developed and agreed by our Urology Team. Information within this sheet was obtained from various sources including; the Urology Team, the British Association of Urological Surgeons, other NHS Trusts and Department of Health Websites.

What are the intended benefits of this procedure?

To allow urine (and, when he is older, semen) to pass from the tip of the penis. This is partly cosmetic but if the birth defect is severe, it is also necessary to ensure normal urination and future fertility.

What are the alternatives to this procedure?

Observation

What are the most frequently occurring events or serious risks of this procedure?

Common (greater than 1 in 10)

- Bleeding from between stitches
- Swelling of the penis

Occasional (between 1 in 10 and 1 in 50)

- Collection of blood under the skin (haematoma)
- Wound infection, hence the need for antibiotics afterwards
- Development of a small hole at the site of the original urethral opening (5-10%)
- Urine draining around the catheter (bypassing) due to bladder spasm

Rare (less than 1 in 50)

- Your son may not be completely cosmetically satisfied when he is older

What sort of anaesthetic is used?

These procedures are all performed under a general anaesthetic, by both surgeons and anaesthetists who are specialists in the care of children undergoing surgery.

What does the procedure involve?

An incision is made around the penis underneath the glans ('head'). It may also be necessary to perform a circumcision at the time of the procedure, and this will be discussed with you fully beforehand. Minor abnormalities usually only require a single operation lasting about 2 hours but more major ones can require a second procedure. Small flaps of skin are created from the existing tissues to allow the urethral opening to be moved further along the penis.

After the procedure, a catheter (urinary drainage tube) is passed through the penis into the bladder. This stays in place for 7-10 days after the procedure and protects the stitches whilst they heal. A dressing is left on the penis to stop your son touching the stitches.

Should your child not have been potty-trained yet, as is usually the case, then he will wear 2 nappies as a double nappy system where the catheter is passed through the first nappy into the second nappy so that bowel and urinary streams can be kept separate. The senior nurse on the ward can show you how to change these.

This procedure is either performed as a day case or overnight stay, depending on the complexity of the procedure. There are facilities for a parent to stay on the ward if required.

What happens after the procedure?

If your son is having the procedure as a day case, then he will be allowed home once he has eaten, drunk and passed urine.

If the procedure is planned as an overnight stay, then your son will be discharged the morning after the surgery as long as he is well, and you are comfortable changing the double nappies. The dressing stays in place, along with the catheter, for 7-10 days after the operation after which time you will be asked to come back to the ward for the surgeon to remove the dressings and catheter.

Your son will be sent home with a supply of antibiotics to reduce the risk of infection, and some medication to stop bladder spasm, where urine drains around the catheter rather than through it.

There is often a small ooze of blood visible through the transparent wound dressing. This is of no concern unless it becomes excessive.

What else should I look out for?

If your son develops any excessive bleeding or is unable to pass urine, you should contact Sunshine Ward or Mr. Morley's secretary at so that arrangements can be made to review him.

Who should I contact for more information?

- Day Surgery Unit if your son's operation was carried out there
- The Paediatric Ward –Sunshine 020 8934 2325/2326
- Mr. Morley's secretary- 020 8934 2731