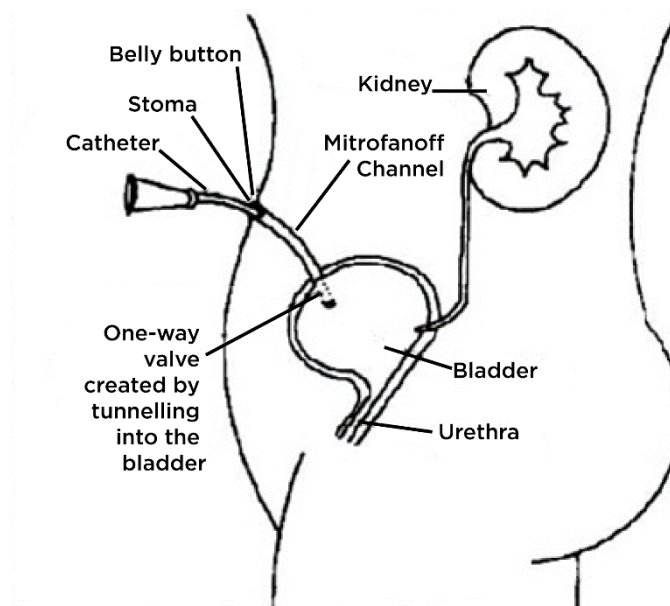


# Mitrofanoff Channel

## What is a Mitrofanoff channel?

The Mitrofanoff (my-TROFF-an-off) channel is a tube that connects the bladder to the outside of the stomach area. It is often made from a part of the intestines your child's body doesn't need - the appendix. The opening of the channel (stoma) is often placed in the folds of the belly button or on the lower right side of the stomach. This channel lets your child empty their bladder by placing a small plastic tube (catheter) through an opening in their stomach. You may hear us call the channel "a Mitrofanoff."



**This illustration shows how the Mitrofanoff channel connects your child's bladder to the outside of the stomach area.**

## Why is a Mitrofanoff channel helpful for my child?

The Mitrofanoff channel allows your child to use a catheter without having to undress or move out of a wheelchair. Often, putting the catheter through the stomach stoma is easier and more comfortable than putting it into the hole where pee comes out (the urethra).

### To Learn More

- Urology  
206-987-2509
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- [seattlechildrens.org](http://seattlechildrens.org)

### Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

### How to catheterize the Mitrofanoff channel

It is important to keep the stoma and catheter clean. Follow these steps to help your child empty their bladder.

1. Wash your hands well with soap and water.
  2. Clean the stoma with a diaper wipe or washcloth.
  3. Prepare the hydrophilic catheter using the manufacturer's instructions. Hydrophilic means the catheter has a special coating that makes it slippery and easier to use.
  4. Put the catheter down into the stoma until urine begins to flow. Once the urine stops, move the catheter around a bit to help empty the bladder. It may also help to have your child bend forward during the process to help empty the bladder all the way.
  5. Once the flow of urine has stopped completely, pinch the catheter to keep urine from dripping out the end of the catheter. Take the catheter out of the stoma.
  6. If you need to, wipe the stoma dry with a small, clean towel.
  7. Throw away the catheter.
  8. Wash your hands.
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