

Penile Surgery

Care After Surgery

Steps for caring for your child after their surgery or procedure

What type of surgery did my child have?

- Removal of skin connected to head of penis (lysis of penile adhesions)
- Opening of the urethra (meatotomy / meatoplasty)
- Removal of foreskin (circumcision)
- Buried penis repair
- Correction of bent penis (penile angulation)
- Correction of downward curve in penis (chordee)
- Penile cyst removal (excision)
- Other _____

When can my child go home?

Most children go home the day of surgery. If your child has another medical condition, they may need to stay overnight.

Where can I watch videos that explain how to care for my child after surgery?

We created videos to explain how to care for your child after surgery. You can search for these titles on YouTube. You may need to login due to age restrictions.

- “How to Care for Your Child After Urologic Surgery”
youtube.com/watch?v=epLQn5D62wk



- “How to Care for Your Child After Penile Surgery”
youtube.com/watch?v=ppZeEKY848M



How do I care for the surgery site?



- It is normal to see a small amount of bleeding at the surgical site. You can apply gentle pressure to the area until the bleeding stops for up to 5 minutes.
- You can expect a yellow film on the penis. This is normal as it heals.
- Starting the day of surgery, put petroleum jelly (Vaseline) over the surgical site on the penis. It will keep the penis protected while it heals.
- Use a moderate to large amount of petroleum jelly each time.
- Put the petroleum jelly on with your finger or a cotton swab.
 - For children in diapers: do this at every diaper change for the next 2 weeks
 - For children not in diapers: do this 3-4 times a day for the next 2 weeks

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To Learn More

- Urology
206-987-2509
- Ask your child’s healthcare provider
- 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.



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When can my child take a bath and swim?



Follow the tips with a check below for your child.

- You can briefly place your child in the bathtub to rinse off the wound if poop gets onto it. You do not need to remove the dressing if this happens. Staining on the bandage can be expected. There is no need to take the dressing off.
- Your child can take a shower or bath and go swimming unless your surgeon tells you not to.
- Your child may have a sponge-bath only until their surgeon tells you showers and baths are ok.
- Your child may shower or take a bath after 2 days. Your child may swim after 2 weeks.

How do I care for the dressing?

Follow the tips with a check below for your child.

Your child has 1 of 2 types of dressing:

- Clear dressing:** this will fall off on its own some time from 2 to 14 days after surgery. You do not need to remove this.
- White dressing:** remove this 2 days after surgery at home. If the dressing falls off early, do not replace it.

How do I remove the white dressing?

- Have your child sit in a warm bath or shower for about 10 minutes. This will loosen the dressing to make it easier to remove. If the bandage is not loosening, have your child sit in the bath for 10 to 20 more minutes.
- If the dressing is still not coming off easily or is stuck, put 1 cup of oil (corn, vegetable, olive or baby oil) on the penis. Allow this to soak in for 20 minutes and then remove the dressing.
- If the dressing is still not coming off, call the urology office for more tips.

How much activity can my child do?



Follow the tips with a check below for your child.

- Normal activity
- Avoid any straddle activities with your child that increase pressure between their legs for 2 weeks. This includes:
 - Holding your child on your hip
 - Bouncing your child on your knee
 - Baby-wearing devices
 - Bouncer toys that have a harness
 - Bicycles, tricycles or ride on toys
 - **It is ok to use car seats and highchairs.**
- Avoid rough play, climbing, contact sports and gym class for 2 weeks. Have your child keep both feet on the ground as a guideline until they are done healing.
- Your child may return to daycare or school when they no longer need prescription pain medicine or frequent daytime over-the-counter pain medications. Check if your child's school is comfortable with putting the petroleum jelly on your child's penis or your child will need to be able to do this on their own.



Will my child have pain?



- After surgery, your child may feel pain on the penis. We partner with you and your child to relieve pain as completely as possible. No matter the level of your child's pain, believe they are hurting and respond right away.
- Effective pain control will help your child feel better and heal faster. Acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) or both are common medicines to treat pain. Older children may receive oxycodone. Check with your healthcare provider first before giving any type of medicine to your child.
- The pain will get better as time passes, usually after the first day for most children. In addition to medicine, you can also help your child cope by distracting them with music, games, TV or videos.
- For more information, read our handout "Acute Pain".
seattlechildrens.org/pdf/PE503.pdf

How do I dispose of unused medication?

To keep your family safe, store medicines inside a locked cabinet or location where others cannot easily get to them. Once your child has recovered from surgery, dispose of all unused prescription medicines.

Taking leftover pain or other medicines on purpose or by accident, can be very dangerous. For more information about safe disposal of unused opioid medications, read our handout "Safe Use and Disposal of Opioid Medicines" at seattlechildrens.org/pdf/PE3140.pdf or visit takebackyourmeds.org to find a take back place near you.

When do I call?



Monday to Friday, call the Urology clinic at **206-987-2509** for questions or any of the concerns listed below. Send MyChart messages for non-urgent questions.

Nights, weekends and holidays, call **206-987-2000** and ask for the Urology resident on call for urgent concerns from the following list:

- Fever higher than 101.5° F (38.6° C)
- Redness and swelling that spreads up into the stomach area
- Bleeding that cannot be stopped after 5 minutes of applied pressure
- Your child has pain not controlled by the medicine prescribed
- Cannot pee for a span of 8 hours after surgery
- Throwing up (vomiting)