

Hypospadias Repair

Surgery to correct the urethra on a penis

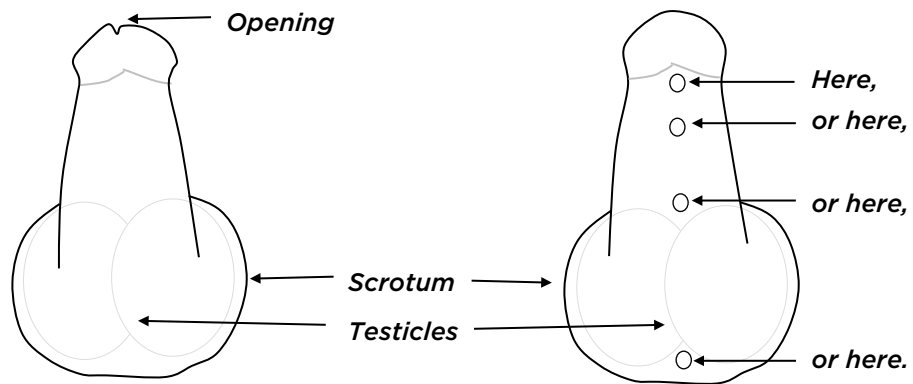
This handout explains the condition hypospadias and the surgery to correct it.

What is hypospadias?

- Pee (urine) comes out of a tube in the penis called a urethra. Hypospadias occurs when the opening (meatus) of the urethra is not at the very tip, but somewhere along the underside of the penis or on the sac of skin containing the testicles (scrotum).
- Hypospadias (hye-peh-SPAY-dee-iss) is very common in newborns. Scientists are researching to see if there is a hereditary (genetic) link. We do not know the exact cause of hypospadias.

A penis with no hypospadias (the opening is at the tip).

Places where the opening can be on a penis with hypospadias.



Why is hypospadias a problem?

- If the hole is on the underside of the penis, it can be hard for your child to control their urine stream.
- Hypospadias can also cause problems with the ability to make a baby later in life (fertility). The hole needs to be at or near the tip of the penis to deposit sperm during vaginal sex.
- Also, some children with hypospadias have a bent penis (chordee) when the penis gets hard (an erection). Chordee can make sex with other people challenging later in life.

What can be done about it?

Surgery is the method to repair hypospadias. Taking medicine won't help, and the problem won't get better by itself. The surgery moves the hole to the tip. If your child's penis is also curved or bent, we can straighten the penis during the same surgery.

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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.

What is the best age for my child to have this surgery?

In most cases, we repair hypospadias between 6 and 18 months of age. We recommend surgery during this age range, because your baby's heart and lungs have matured, and it is before the age in which children develop memory.

What happens during surgery?

The technique the surgeon uses will depend on where the hole where pee comes out (the meatus) is on the penis shaft at birth. The goals of the surgery are to place the hole at or near the tip of the penis and to correct any bend. The surgeon will talk with you beforehand about the surgery plan.

What happens after surgery?

After surgery, keep your child comfortable and germ-free with medicines. Expect a dressing (bandage) on the penis and a plastic tube called a catheter or stent coming from the tip. The catheter or stent helps to drain urine from the bladder while the penis heals. We will remove it about 1 week after surgery during a clinic visit.

What are the risks of this surgery?

Any surgery carries a few risks. While they are not likely to happen, some of these risks include mild or serious bleeding during or after surgery, infection, swelling of the penis or a hole in another area (fistula). Also, there are risks from general anesthesia (medicine to help your child sleep without pain during the surgery). The doctor (called an anesthesiologist) will discuss these risks with you.

Are there times when surgery should not be done or should be delayed?

If your child's body might not cope well with surgery for a medical reason, we may suggest not doing surgery. Your beliefs and wishes are also important. Some people don't agree with doing surgery on a child's genitals before they are old enough to make their own decision. Talk to your child's healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

When do I call?

If you have questions about hypospadias or chordee or surgery to correct them, call the Urology Clinic at **206-987-2509** or use **MyChart** for non-urgent questions.