

## Child health information factsheet

# Pyeloplasty

A pyeloplasty is an operation to remove a blockage in the tube (ureter) leading from one of the kidneys to the bladder.

Your child will have a general anaesthetic (medicine given to make you go to sleep) for this operation and will need to stay in hospital for three to four days.

### The operation

Because there is a blockage in one of your child's ureters, urine cannot flow easily from the kidney into the bladder. The blockage is usually there from birth but sometimes can be found later. If the tube remains blocked the kidney could stop working.

### Before the operation

Your child will have been seen in the outpatient department and the reason your child needs to have the operation explained to you.

A letter will be sent to you telling you when to bring your child to the hospital. You will need to come in a day before surgery.

### On the day of admission

- Your child will have a blood test
- Your child's surgeon will explain the operation in more detail and will discuss with you any concerns you may have, you will be asked you to sign a consent form for the operation
- An anaesthetist will also visit you to explain about the anaesthetic.

### After the operation

Your child will need some time in the recovery room to wake up from the anaesthetic. When they are fully awake they will be taken back to the ward.

Your child may have fluids running through a cannula (small plastic tube into a vein) to keep them hydrated and a morphine infusion (pain relief through the cannula) for 24 to 48 hours to keep them comfortable.

Your child will have a stent (tube) coming out near the incision site and may have a catheter (a bag to drain away urine) so that the ureter will have time to heal.

The catheter will come out as soon as the morphine is stopped and the stent will be blocked off two days after the operation before it is removed at a later date. You will then be able to go home.

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## When you get home

- Encourage your child to drink
- It is normal for the urine to look slightly pink but not dark red
- Your child may need some pain relief when you get home. Please make sure you have some paracetamol ready at home
- Your child should not have a bath or shower until the stent has been removed seven to ten days after the operation
- The wound site will be closed with steri-strips (paper stitches) on the outside, these stitches will usually fall off within a week, if not you can soak them off using a clean wet flannel
- As there is a small risk of infection, your child will need to take antibiotics until the stent has been removed. You will be given these when you leave the hospital
- Your child can return to school when he or she is feeling well again but should not do contact sports for three months after the operation.

## You should call the hospital if

- Your child is in a lot of pain and pain relief is not helping
- The wound site looks red, inflamed and feels hotter than the skin around it
- There is any oozing from the wound
- Your child has a lot of blood in their urine.

## Follow up appointments

You will be given details of a follow up appointment about seven to ten days after the operation for the stent to be removed. This can be uncomfortable so make sure that your child has the full dose of pain relief for their age before the appointment.

You will be given an outpatient appointment for a scan and to be seen by the surgeon about three months after the operation.

## If you have any questions or concerns please contact

Urology nurse specialists: **023 8079 6344** or **023 8077 7222** bleep **2615**  
Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.30pm

At all other times please contact G4 nephro-urology ward: **023 8079 8620**

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an interpreter or a version in large print,  
Braille or on audio tape, please telephone  
023 8079 4688 for help.**