

## Child health information factsheet

# Tibialis anterior tendon transfer

The consultant surgeon has recommended this operation to correct the curve on the front of your child's foot.

The tibialis anterior tendon attaches on the inside of the front of the foot. Either the whole tendon is moved to the centre of the foot, or half of the tendon is moved to the outside of the foot. The aim is for the muscle pull to be changed so that the front of the foot is pulled straight.

### The operation

Surgery is usually offered if other treatments have already been tried, such as physiotherapy, plaster casts or splints and have not been successful.

You will need to bring your child into hospital the day before the operation, the hospital stay is usually for one to two nights after the operation.

Your child will need to have a general anaesthetic (medicine given to make you go to sleep) for the operation. The surgeon will discuss with you and your child what the operation involves.

There will be two or three scars on the foot. The stitches used are dissolvable although the tendon may be held in its new position with a stitch that comes out onto the sole of the foot. Cotton padding and a plaster cast is put on from below the knee to the toes.

### Aftercare

The day after the operation the physiotherapist will teach your child how to walk with crutches without taking weight through the leg. This plaster will be on for a total of six weeks.

The plaster cast will be removed and the stitch on the sole of the foot snipped in the outpatient clinic. A new cast, that can be walked on is put on for two more weeks.

You may find that the use of a wheelchair is helpful. You should be able to get one from the Red Cross. It is a good idea to contact them as soon as you know the operation date.

### Possible complications

The healthcare team will make your child's stay in hospital and the treatment they receive as safe as possible. However complications can happen. You should ask the healthcare team if there is anything you do not understand.

The anaesthetist will be able to discuss with you the possible complications of your child having an anaesthetic.

Pain relieving medicine will be given as prescribed by the anaesthetist or the doctor.

Bleeding can happen during or after surgery.

If the surgical wound becomes infected it will usually settle with antibiotics but may sometimes need further surgery.

Scarring of the skin may occur as a result of the surgical cut.

There may be altered feeling at the operation site, this may be temporary or permanent.

## Specific complications of surgery

The tendon can sometimes be looser than it should be or even pull loose and the correction may not be as good as expected. The foot shape will change as your child grows so the foot may not be perfect when the plaster is removed. It often takes many months or years for the full effect to be seen.

You will be seen for follow up in the outpatient clinic as your child grows to check on the foot development. If there are concerns about the growth, the medical team will talk to you about any more treatment or operations that may be needed.

## If you have any questions or concerns please contact

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