

Hypospadias

Information for patients, parents and guardians

We have given you this factsheet because your son has a condition called hypospadias. It explains what hypospadias is and how it is treated. We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to a member of our team.

What is hypospadias?

Hypospadias is a congenital (present at birth) condition affecting a boy's penis. It is a combination of three separate problems:

- the hole through which urine passes (meatus) is not at the tip of the penis
- the foreskin is gathered at the back of the penis with none at the front
- the penis may be bent when erect

The position of the meatus varies. In some boys, the hole is only a small distance away from the tip of their penis, whereas for others, it is at the base of their penis, in their scrotum or behind their scrotum.

Hole through which urine passes (meatus)

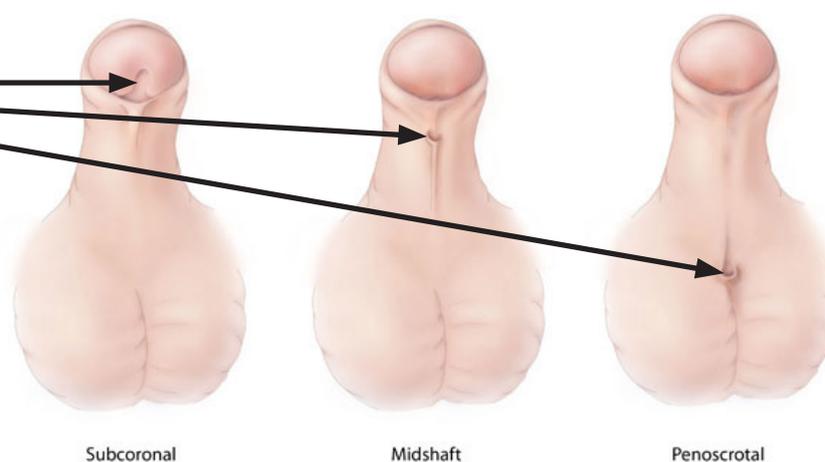


Image sourced from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

Boys with hypospadias may also have other conditions, such as inguinal hernia or undescended testicles. Your doctor will check your son thoroughly to confirm or rule out any other conditions.

What causes hypospadias?

It is not currently known what causes hypospadias. More research is needed to learn more about the possible causes.

Hypospadias affects approximately one in every 200 to 400 boys. It appears to be more common in some families. However, in most cases, it is just a single isolated problem.

How is hypospadias diagnosed?

Hypospadias is usually diagnosed by clinical evaluation of the appearance of the penis. This can happen during a routine physical examination after your son is born or during a regular check-up when your son is a few months old.

How is hypospadias treated?

Some hypospadias abnormalities are so minor that no treatment is needed. However, for most boys, hypospadias is treated with surgery. The type of surgery your son will need will depend on the severity of their condition. The aim of the surgery is to reposition the hole through which urine passes (meatus) to the tip of the penis and to correct any bending when the penis is erect.

Although hypospadias may not cause any immediate problems for your son, if the condition is not treated, when they are older they may be unable to:

- pass urine (wee) standing up
- have an adequate erection
- have sex without difficulty

We will usually perform surgery when your son is aged six to 12 months. Most forms of hypospadias can be corrected in a single surgery. However, some forms of hypospadias will require more than one surgery to correct the condition. We will discuss what type of surgery your son will need during your appointment with us.

When will our appointment be?

We will send you an appointment letter in the post. If you have not received an appointment letter by the time your son is four months old, please contact us on **023 8120 6344**.

What happens next?

As long as your son is able to pass urine (wee) easily, he will not need to stay in hospital. You will be referred to our paediatric urology team to discuss your son's individual options and future plan of care.

It is important that you do not have your son circumcised, as their foreskin may be used in any reconstructive surgery.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Paediatric urology team
Telephone: **023 8120 6344**

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital please visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalneeds**

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