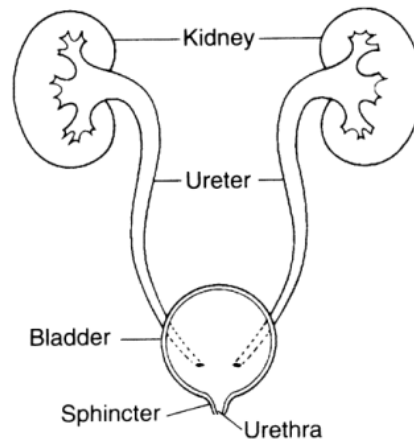




URETERAL REIMPLANTATION

Ureteral reimplantation is surgery to fix the tube (ureter) that connects the kidneys to the bladder. This is done to prevent urine from backing up into the kidneys and possibly causing damage to the kidney tissue. Several surgical techniques are commonly used to reimplant ureters. Your child's urology surgeon will discuss with you the technique that is best suited for your child's condition.

Diagram of the urinary system:



What happens during surgery?

Your child will receive general anesthesia to help them sleep and not feel pain during surgery. The surgeon and anesthesiologist may recommend a caudal block (numbing medicine) injection into the spinal area near the sacrum that will numb the bladder and incisional area for several hours after surgery. Your child's surgeon will then fix the way one or both ureters connect to the bladder. A urinary catheter (flexible tube) may be placed in the bladder to drain urine from the bladder and a stent (thin tube) may be placed in the ureter(s) to keep them open as they heal from surgery. The urinary catheter and stents are typically removed before your child goes home from the hospital. Your surgeon will detail the plan depending on the work that needs to be done.

Will my child be in pain?

Your child may experience both incisional pain and bladder pain (bladder spasms). The anesthesiologist and your child's surgeon will prescribe and explain the medications that will be used to keep your child comfortable.

Spasms are a contraction of the bladder wall muscle caused by irritation from surgery, and from the catheter in the bladder. Signs of a bladder spasm are sudden irritability, drawing up their legs, urge to urinate, small urinary accidents, blood in the urine or feeling pressure in their bottom. The spasms can come and go and usually last less than a minute.



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Your child may experience bladder spasms for 2 or more weeks after surgery. During this time, you should keep their urine diluted with good fluid intake. Minimize intake of caffeine, carbonation, citrus, chocolate, and excessive vitamin C, these are bladder irritants and can make the spasms worse.

Constipation can also worsen the spasms. Keep stools soft and easy to pass daily. Medications will be prescribed to help alleviate bladder spasms.

What can I expect after the surgery?

Before your child is discharged you will be given written information about their care at home and any questions you have will be answered.

- **Diet:** Resume regular diet as tolerated
- **Activity:** Your child may return to school or daycare when pain is well controlled. Avoid vigorous activities, contact sports and swimming for 14 days.
- **Voiding habits:** Expect blood in the urine on and off for up to 2 weeks after surgery. Some children experience frequency and urgency of urination, and small urinary accidents for up to 2 weeks after surgery.
- **Wound Care:** Your child will have surgical glue or a clear plastic dressing over their incision. It may take the surgical glue up to 2 weeks to completely dissolve. If a dressing was used, it can be taken off 1 week after surgery.
- **Bathing:** Sponge bathe your child for the first 24 hours after surgery and then they may shower or take short baths (5-10 minutes) in plain water for the next week. This will promote healing and can be soothing.
- **Medicines:** Pain can be controlled by alternating Acetaminophen (Tylenol® or another brand) and Ibuprofen®. Do not give aspirin because it may cause bleeding.
 - If your child is prescribed an antibiotic, follow your surgeon's specific instructions.
 - Your surgeon may provide a prescription for medicine which should help relieve bladder spasms, follow your surgeon's specific instructions.

What to call the surgeon for:

- Fever with worsening redness or pus like drainage at surgical incision
- If the incision starts to separate
- Has blood clots or increasing amounts of blood in urine
- Foul smelling or cloudy urine
- Pain or bladder spasms not controlled with prescribed medications

Call your primary care provider for any other concerns.

Follow-up care: Follow-up with your child's surgeon as directed following the surgery.

Call your surgeon's office to schedule an appointment.

Questions? This information is not specific to your child but provides general information. If you have any concerns, please call our clinic at (612) 813-8000.