



**Pediatric Surgical  
Associates, Ltd.**

Patient Education

## **Buried Penis Repair and Scrotoplasty**

### **What is buried penis?**

A buried or hidden penis can be present at birth. Buried penis means that the penis is hidden beneath the skin or within the fat pad in a boy's pubic area. With a buried penis there is an abnormal attachment of the skin to the penis causing the skin to float above the surface of the penis. In most cases the penis is of normal size and function.

A scrotoplasty with the buried penis repair involves removing excess skin from the scrotum to "unbury" the penis that the skin has hidden. It is a procedure that reshapes the scrotal skin tissue to properly expose the penis.

A buried penis repair often, but not always, includes a scrotoplasty.

### **What causes buried penis?**

- At birth the ligaments that attach the penis to the body may be weaker than usual.
- Prominent prepubic fat pad or excess fat or tissue around the abdomen and genital area.
- Occasionally, after newborn circumcision a scar can develop over the head of the penis causing buried penis.

### **How is it diagnosed?**

Your son may have been diagnosed at birth by physical exam, or as an older child after being diagnosed with an infection or difficulties with daytime wetting and urinary dribbling.

### **What happens during surgery?**

Your son will receive general anesthesia to help him sleep and not feel pain during surgery. A local or regional block (numbing medicine for the surgical area) will be given. The precise surgery will depend on what factors caused your child's buried penis. Your child's surgeon may need to remove excess skin from the scrotum to "unbury" a penis, reconstruct the penis's connection to its deeper internal structures or refine the angles where the base of the penis and scrotum join (penoscrotal junction). This will allow the penis to stand out better and help prevent penile adhesions.

### **Will my child be in pain?**

Most children do well with the surgery. Pain can be controlled by alternating Acetaminophen (Tylenol® or another brand) and Ibuprofen. Do not give aspirin because it may cause bleeding.

### **What can I expect after the procedure?**

The penis and scrotum may be red, bruised and swollen. The incision may ooze a little blood for the first few days. Complete healing will take a few weeks. If there are stitches, they will dissolve on their own within 2-4 weeks.

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

- **Diet:** Resume regular diet as tolerated
- **Activity:** May return to school or daycare when pain is well controlled. Avoid straddling activities, contact sports and swimming for 14 days.
- **Wound care: Follow your surgeon's specific instructions for wound care.** If your child has a dressing on his penis, follow your surgeons instructions for removal.  
Check the penis every 3-4 hours during the first day to monitor for bleeding.  
The penis may appear dark pink and develop swelling and bruising.  
Apply a generous amount of ointment with diaper changes, or 4 times daily for 2 weeks. Glob the ointment on and let it melt around the area. The ointment helps decrease irritation and protects the skin.  
You may notice off white patches of healing skin around the surgical area and along the incisions, this is a normal part of the healing process.
- **Bathing: Follow your surgeons instructions for bathing.** It is typically ok to take a bath 24 hours after surgery. Bathe (5-10 minutes) in plain water for the next week. A daily warm bath will facilitate healing and provide comfort. Apply Aquaphor or Vaseline to the penis after bathing.
- **Medicines:** You may alternate Acetaminophen (Tylenol ®or another brand and Ibuprofen (such as Advil ®or Motrin®). Do not give aspirin because it may cause bleeding.

### What to call the doctor for:

- Fever with worsening redness or drainage at surgical area.
- Significant swelling, bruising, or bleeding at surgical area.
- If the wound separates

We ask that you call your child's primary care provider for other concerns.

### Follow-up care:

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

Call your surgeon's office at (612) 813-8000 option #3 to schedule an appointment.

### Questions?

This information is not specific to your child but provides general information.

If you have any concerns or further questions, please send a message via the portal or call the clinic at (612)813-8000 option #6 for the Nurse message line.

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