

PYELOSTOMY

What is a pyelostomy?

A pyelostomy is a stoma (opening) created in the renal pelvis (kidney). This allows urine to drain with low pressure, to help protect and prevent harm to the kidney(s). It is a surgical procedure that typically involves an overnight stay in the hospital.

Why is a pyelostomy needed?

Usually, infants need a pyelostomy to drain urine from the kidney to relieve the pressure when there is an obstruction between the kidney and bladder.

What happens during surgery?

Your child will receive general anesthetic to help them sleep and not feel pain during surgery. An incision is made on the skin over the flank area (side of body) and another opening is made in the renal pelvis (center) of the kidney. The opening is then connected to the skin, and this allows urine to drain out of the kidney. Your child may have a catheter (small tube) in the opening (stoma) for a period after surgery to help keep the stoma open while it heals. Urine will drain into a diaper.

Will my child be in pain?

Most children do well with the surgery. If your child is in pain, giving Acetaminophen (Tylenol® or another brand) will help relieve the pain. Do not give aspirin to your child as it may cause bleeding.

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.
- **Wound Care:** You may have a catheter in place for a few days after surgery to help keep the stoma open during healing. The opening appears as a small slit surrounded by pink tissue. The urine will drain into a diaper or pull-up.

- The skin around the pyelostomy may become red, irritated, and sore. If this happens, use a skin barrier ointment (Vaseline, Aquaphor or other skin product) to protect the skin.
 - Your child's provider may recommend daily use of a specific ointment or cream, you should always follow your provider's recommendations.
 - It can be normal for a small amount of bleeding around the newly created stoma. This may occur especially the first few days after surgery. Urine should drain constantly from the stoma.
 - If you do not see urine draining from the stoma, give your child a warm bath, or place a warm (not hot) damp washcloth over the stoma to see if the stoma drains better. If urine is still not draining from the stoma, call your provider's office.
- **Bathing:** It is ok to take a bath 24 hours after procedure. A daily warm bath will help with healing and provide comfort. Bathe 5-10 minutes in plain water for the next week. If a tube is in place, it should not be below the level of the water. Once the tube is removed your child can resume normal baths.
 - **Medicines:** If your child is in pain giving Acetaminophen (Tylenol® or another brand) should help relieve the pain. Do not give aspirin because it may cause bleeding.

Possible complications:

- Narrowing of the stoma so urine does not drain from the kidney. This will be evaluated by kidney ultrasound, and if urine is not draining well from the kidney, a stoma revision may be recommended.

What to call the surgeon for:

- Fever associated with redness, swelling or drainage at the surgical area
- No urine draining from the pyelostomy stoma
- Pain that does not improve with prescribed medications
- Blood in urine that does not clear

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

Questions?

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

If you have any concerns or further questions, please call our clinic at (612)813-8000 option #6 for the nurse message line.

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