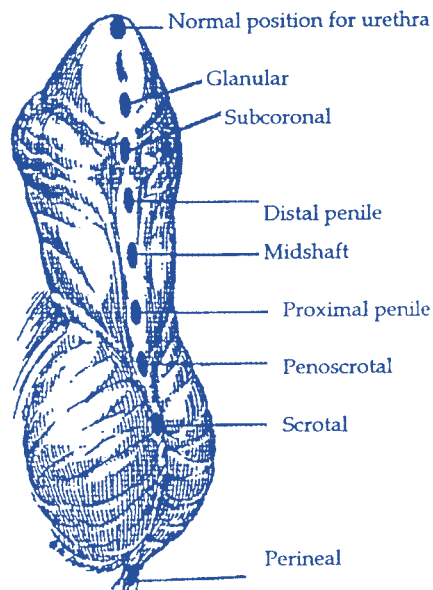


Hypospadias Repair: Pre-Operative Information

What is hypospadias?

Hypospadias is a birth defect of the penis. The urethral opening, the hole where the urine comes out, is not in the normal position. Instead of the tip, it is on the undersurface of the penis. Boys with hypospadias are usually missing the underside of their foreskin so that the foreskin forms a hood. For this reason, most boys born with hypospadias are not circumcised. There is often a bend or curve (called chordee) in the penis when the boy has an erection. Hypospadias may be mild, moderate, or severe depending on how far back the opening is and how much curvature is present. The more severe forms of hypospadias are usually associated with worsening degrees of chordee.



Abnormal locations of the urethra

What causes it?

Incomplete development of the urethra causes hypospadias. It can occur in families. The reason for it happening is usually not known.

Why is it important to recognize hypospadias?

An abnormally placed urethral opening does not allow the urine to pass as it should. A boy with hypospadias urinates with a stream that is often directed downward rather than out and away from the body. This causes wet pants and shoes. This condition, when left uncorrected, may make future sexual intercourse difficult, or impossible.

Can it be corrected?

Yes, surgery can correct the problem. These operations are best done between 6 and 18 months of age. The repair is usually performed in one surgery. If the hypospadias is severe, it may be necessary to have more than one surgery. The surgery usually lasts 1-4 hours and the patient goes home the same day. The child often needs a catheter (a tube to drain the urine during healing) for several days after the operation.

What is the outlook for boys with hypospadias?

Following surgery, most boys have normal function and a good cosmetic result. Long-term studies show that these boys do well emotionally. The ability to have children and to have erections are expected to be normal after the repair, except in the most severe cases.

If you have questions

If you have questions or concerns, please call your child's doctor at Pediatric Surgical Associates at (612) 813-8000 or 1-800-992-6983.

