

## Pyeloplasty: Pre-Operative Information

Your child will soon be coming to the hospital for a pyeloplasty. A pyeloplasty is an operation performed to clear away an obstruction at the point where the ureter meets the kidney (see diagram of the urinary system)

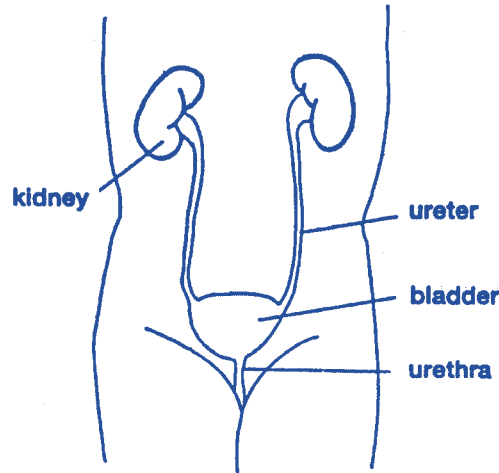


Diagram of the urinary system

The surgery will take about two hours. Sometimes, in order for the doctor to get a better look at the area of narrowing or blockage, a special x-ray will be done in the operating room after your child is asleep. During this test, dye is injected into the ureter (the tube that connects the kidney to the bladder) either from above through the kidney itself or from below through the bladder.

After surgery your child will go to the recovery room and stay there for about 1 hour. Someone will let you know when your child has arrived in the recovery room. After your child is fully awake you will be able to join them and go to the room in the patient care area. Your child will have an **intravenous (IV)** tube in place to supply the fluids and antibiotics needed during the first few days after surgery. At first your child will be allowed only sips of clear fluids, but over the next day or two will gradually return to a normal diet. Infants will resume breast formula feedings. After your child is eating and drinking well and the IV antibiotics are no longer needed, then the IV tube will be taken out.

A **urinary catheter** (sometimes called a “Foley”) will also be in place for 1-2 days after your child returns from surgery. The catheter is a small tube that goes in through the urethra and into the bladder. All the urine that would normally be stored in the bladder drains out through this tube and is collected in a urine bag. The catheter will be securely taped to your child’s leg.

Your child may also have a **stent**. This is a small plastic tube that sits inside the renal pelvis and comes out near the incision. For 1-2 days urine will drain through the stent and into a bag. Before your child is discharged your urologist will decide if the stent will be plugged or continue to drain into a bag. He will tell you when to bring your child back into his office for the stent to be removed.

*Please see reverse side*



Your child's incision will be covered with a clear dressing that stays on for 10 days after surgery. The stitches are dissolvable, so there is no need for them to be removed. A drain known as a Penrose drain may be attached to the abdomen, close to the incision, to take away excess fluid that may have collected during surgery. This drain looks a lot like a thick elastic band. It will be stitched in place and covered with a piece of gauze. It is usually removed when the drainage stops in approximately 1-2 weeks.

### **How will my child's pain be managed?**

Several effective methods of pain control can be used with children after a pyeloplasty. The one chosen will depend on your child's age and individual needs. Injections are no longer used for pain relief. At first, all pain medication is given directly through your child's IV. Once your child is feeling better, the pain medication will be given by mouth.

### **Activity**

Getting up and moving around is an important part of getting better. It also helps to encourage your child to take deep breaths and to cough. These actions will assist your child to recover faster.

### **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.