

# Surgery to your child's ureter tube to improve flow of urine from the kidney (pyeloplasty)

Children's Hospital

Produced: March 2021

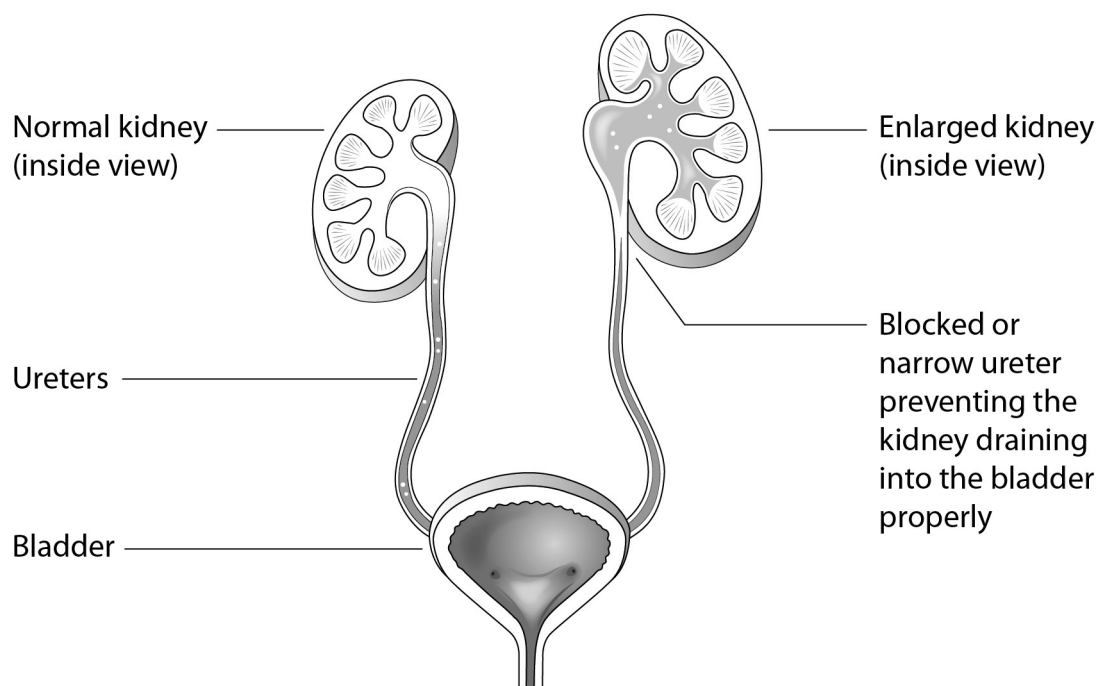
Review: March 2024

Information for Patients, Parents & Carers

Leaflet number: 1154 Version: 1

## What is a pyeloplasty?

This is the name of the operation used to unblock or widen a narrowing in the tube that drains urine from the kidney to the bladder (ureter). This is present high up where the ureter joins the kidney (pelvic-ureteric junction).



Simple diagram showing urinary system

The blockage or narrowing is usually present from birth, but is not caused by anything the mother did whilst pregnant.

If a blockage or narrowing is present, the urine which is made by the kidneys cannot drain into the bladder properly and the kidney becomes swollen (hydronephrosis).

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

This can damage the kidney, which is why an operation is needed to correct this.

The narrowing/ blockage is usually only present on one side but sometimes can be on both sides.

The operation involves removing the narrowed piece of ureter and joining the ends over a tiny tube placed inside the ureter (a stent). This takes place under a general anaesthetic (your child will be asleep and won't feel anything). The operation will take about 2 to 3 hours. Your child will be in hospital for 3 to 5 days.

## After the operation

When your child comes back to the ward they will have regular checks to make sure they are recovering well from the anaesthetic.

Your child may not be able to drink straight away and so will have a cannula inserted into the vein to give them fluid. Your nurse will let you know when he/ she can drink.

Your child may also have a tube to drain their urine into a bag (catheter). They may also have a tube coming from their tummy near the wound (drain), this helps everything heal by draining away any blood or urine that might ooze inside.

The tubes will be securely fixed and children soon get used to them. The nurse will show you how to look after the tubes when your child is up and about.

Your child will be given strong pain relief usually morphine after the operation. You can ask the nurse to explain all about pain relief, and let them know if your child is in pain. Sometimes children get cramps in their bladder caused by the catheter. The nurse will give medicine to prevent this if it happens.

To prevent infection after the operation your child will need antibiotics into the cannula for the first few days, to prevent any infection from the operation. The nurse will give these through the cannula.

## Discharge information

The following advice will help you care for your child at home after the operation:

- Your child may bath as normal.
- Your child may still have discomfort depending on how many days since the operation if within 48 hours give regular pain relief. If after this time give pain relief as and when your child needs it.
- If your child is at school they need to have 2 weeks off - followed up by a further 2 weeks avoiding sports and rough play.
- Your child will need to take antibiotics every day for several months until the doctors are happy they can stop. This is to prevent urine infections after the surgery, due to the stent being inside.

- You will need to look out for signs of a urine infection: temperature; pain when peeing; smelly or cloudy urine. If your child has any of these symptoms contact the ward, urology nurse or your GP who will advise you.
- If a stent was inserted during the pyeloplasty, your child will need another procedure called a cystoscopy under a general anaesthetic, to take out the stent. This will be 6 to 8 weeks after the pyeloplasty. A letter will be sent to you in the post with the details for this.

## **What to expect with the wound:**

- It should heal by itself.
- It will have a certain amount of swelling.
- It will look bright pink.

But if any of the symptoms below occur, please contact Ward 10 or the Emergency Department:

- If the wound starts to bleed.
- If the wound becomes red and/ or more painful when touched.
- If the wound starts to discharge pus.

## **Contact details**

- Your GP if you need advice (if your child is well you do not need to see your GP).
- You can contact Ward 10 at anytime for advice - Tel: 0116 258 5362.
- If you need to be seen urgently please go to the Emergency Department.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.