

Information about the Surgery Meatotomy or Meatoplasty



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What is a meatotomy or meatoplasty?

Sometimes the hole at the end of the penis is too small to let pee flow out freely. To let the pee or urine flow better a small cut is made to enlarge the hole. The cut is made in the tissue at the end of the penis and this tissue is called the meatus. This surgery is called a meatotomy. Sometimes during the surgery the doctor uses a few stitches to stop the opening from narrowing again. This is called a meatoplasty.

How is it Done?

The child has a general anesthetic in the operating room. Once he is asleep, the surgeon passes a soft tube into the hole to measure the size of the opening. The surgeon then makes a small cut to enlarge the hole. The surgeon puts antibiotic ointment on the cut to prevent infection.

After the surgery your son goes to the Post Anesthetic Care Unit where a nurse looks after him until he wakes up.

What do I need to know to care for my son after the surgery?

Helping him with pain

He may have a little pain around the opening for one or two days. Give him pain medication such as acetaminophen. Tylenol is a brand of acetaminophen. Do not give pain medication that has acetosalicylic acid in it such as Aspirin or Ibuprofen.

He may feel some "burning" while he pees. This goes away after a day or two. Offer him lots to drink during this time. The more he drinks the more dilute his pee will be, and this will feel better when he pees.

Sometimes a child who has difficulty peeing can do it while sitting in a warm bath.

Helping the wound to heal

Wash your hands well before you touch the skin. The wound may bleed a little at first when you touch it. Move the skin around the wound 2 to 3 times each day for 4 days. This stops the wound from closing over.

Keep the wound clean by using a soft clean cloth and warm water. Your child can have a bath the day after the meatotomy

Use an antibiotic ointment such as Polysporin™ on the wound as your doctor ordered. This keeps the wound moist and stops it getting dry and crusted. This also helps the fresh skin edges from healing back together. Leave the scab alone. You do not need to cover the wound with a bandage or dressing, just use the ointment. If your child is in diapers, change them as soon as they are soiled or wet.

Encourage you child to drink. When he drinks large amounts, this makes him pee, and this helps to keep the hole open as the cut heals.

When would I call for help?

If you see:

- the area around the opening getting red and swollen.
- blood that does not stop dripping

Or if your child

- has a fever
- does not seem well.



Call the Urologist's office 8:30 to 4:30 Monday to Friday or the Urology Nurse Clinician if it is between 8:00 to 4:00 Monday to Thursday at 604-875-2889.

Any other time take your child to the nearest Emergency Department.

At Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia we believe parents are partners on the health care team. We want you to be as informed as possible. This brochure will answer some of your questions. Please ask about things you do not understand and share your concerns.

If you have any questions, please call :
604-875-2345, local 7225