

What is a vesicostomy?

You are reading this because your child is having a *vesicostomy*. A vesicostomy is an operation to make an opening below your child's belly button (umbilicus). After the operation, your child's bladder will drain continuously from this opening into a diaper. This purpose of this operation is to prevent urine from going back into your child's kidneys and damaging them.

How long does the operation take?

This operation takes about 1 hour. Your child will spend 1-2 hours in the Post-Anesthetic Care Unit (recovery room). Your child will then return to the ward or the Daycare Unit.

How long is the hospital stay?

Your child may be able to go home on the same day as the operation. Sometimes a one night stay is required.

Following surgery, your child:

- May have a catheter which is a small tube for draining urine. The catheter may be in the new opening, or it may be in the urethra (the tube that leads from the bladder to the outside of the body) for 2-3 days.
- Will have an intravenous (IV) for fluid replacement. This will be removed as soon as your child is drinking well.
- Will receive medication for discomfort and/or nausea as needed.
- Will need to wear a diaper or a special incontinence brief. A nurse will show you how to diaper your child to make sure the urine is absorbed and your child's clothing protected.

What can we expect at home?

- Your child should have minimal discomfort. You will receive a prescription for pain medication while you are at the hospital.

- Diapers should be checked regularly and changed when wet, to prevent skin breakdown around the vesicostomy.
- You may use Vaseline or barrier cream on the skin around the vesicostomy to prevent a diaper rash.
- Your child may have a bath or a shower.
- Your child may return to school once they are feeling better. (usually 1 week)
- May resume regular activities.
- NO SPORTS or CONTACT GAMES for 6 weeks.

Call the surgeon's office or the nurse clinician if:

- Urine stops flowing from the vesicostomy for more than 2-3 hours.
- Urine coming from the vesicostomy is foul-smelling or looks unusual.
- Your child develops a fever.
- The skin around the vesicostomy becomes open or starts bleeding.

Follow-up:

A vesicostomy is usually a temporary measure. Follow-up will be arranged in your surgeon's clinic accordingly.

If you have any concerns call the Nurse Clinician at 604-875-2889.

Care of a Vesicostomy

*Developed by the healthcare professionals
of the Urology Department with assistance
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