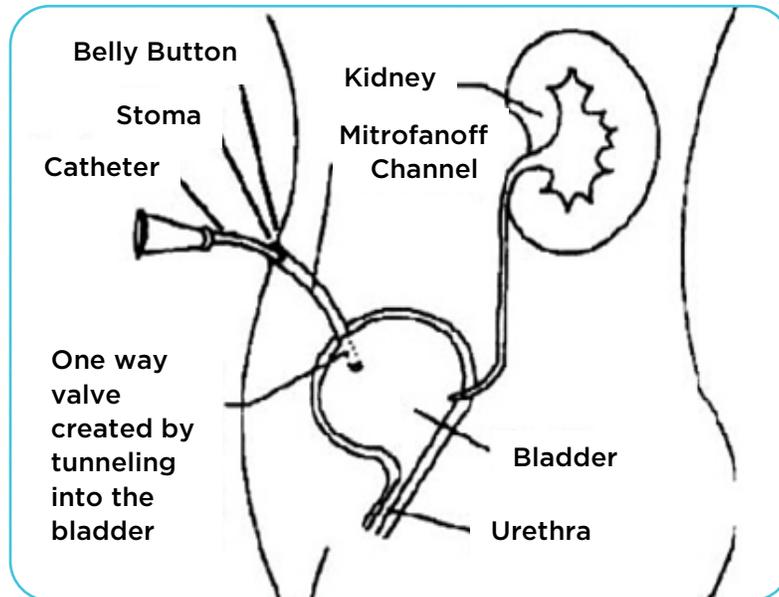


Mitrofanoff Channel

What is a Mitrofanoff channel?

The Mitrofanoff (mye-TROFF-an-off) channel is a tube that connects the bladder to the outside of the stomach area. It is often made from your child's own appendix. The opening of the channel, called the stoma, is often placed in the folds of the belly button. This channel lets your child empty their bladder by placing a small plastic tube (catheter) through an opening in their stomach.

The word "Mitrofanoff" is the last name of the doctor who first came up with this surgery. The channel is often just called "a Mitrofanoff".



This illustration shows how the Mitrofanoff channel connects your child's bladder to the outside of the stomach area.

Why is a Mitrofanoff channel helpful for my child?

The Mitrofanoff channel allows your child to use a catheter without having to undress or move out of a wheelchair. Often, putting the catheter through the stomach stoma is more comfortable than putting it into the urethra (the usual urinary opening). For girls, this opening in the stomach is a lot easier to find than their urethra.

To Learn More

- Urology
206-987-2509
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

How to catheterize the Mitrofanoff channel

It is important to keep the stoma and catheter clean. Follow these steps to help your child empty their bladder.

1. Wash your hands well with soap and water.
2. Clean the stoma with a diaper wipe or washcloth.
3. Prepare the hydrophilic catheter using the manufacturer's instructions. These are the kind of catheters that come with a special coating that makes them slippery and easier to use.
4. Put the catheter down into the stoma until urine begins to flow. Once the urine stops, move the catheter around a bit to help empty the bladder. It may also help to have your child bend forward during the process to help empty the bladder all the way.
5. Once the flow of urine has stopped completely, pinch the catheter to keep urine from dripping out the end of the catheter. Take the catheter out of the stoma.
6. If you need to, wipe the stoma dry with a small, clean towel.
7. Throw away the catheter.
8. Wash your hands.