

Bladder Augmentation Surgery

Bladder augmentation surgery is done to make your child's bladder bigger. This flyer will tell you about what to expect if your child needs this surgery.

What is bladder augmentation surgery?

We use tissue from your child's stomach, intestine or the tubes that connect the kidney to the bladder (ureter) to make a patch. The patch is placed on the bladder to make it bigger. Sometimes loosening the outside muscle of the bladder will also expand it.

Why does my child need an augmentation?

This is done to help your child hold more urine (pee) for a longer time and to reduce the pressure inside the bladder.

How do I prepare my child for surgery?

Your child may be put on a special diet of only clear liquids 1 to 3 days before surgery. Also, they may need to drink a laxative that will help clean out the bowels. Most children check into the hospital the day before or on the morning of the surgery and stay for 5 to 7 days. You will receive instructions on how to prepare your child.

Will my child be in pain?

We partner with you and your child to prevent and relieve pain as completely as possible. The entire stomach area will be numb from the pain medicine. This is given through a small tube placed in the spine area, called an epidural catheter. The epidural will stay in place for a number of days after surgery, until your child can take pain medicine by mouth. If an epidural catheter is not used, pain medicine may be given through a tube in the vein (intravenously - IV).

After a surgery your child is likely to have some pain and discomfort. In addition to medicine prescribed for pain, we will work with you to create a plan that encourages coping activities to treat pain and provide support. No matter the level of your child's pain, we join you to assess and respond right away. Help your child get better, faster with good pain management.

What should I expect after surgery?

Tubes (catheters)

Your child will have 2 or 3 catheters in place after surgery. One will drain from the bladder area into a urinary drainage bag. Another may be placed in your child's urethra, where pee comes out. If your child had a Mitrofanoff surgery, a catheter will drain from the belly button. You will need to keep these catheters in place for 3 to 6 weeks at home.

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.



Medicines

Your child may be given medicines after surgery, such as:

- Antibiotics to take for several weeks to help prevent a urinary tract infection (UTI)
- Oxybutynin to help decrease bladder spasms
- Vaseline to be applied around catheter sites

Irrigating the bladder

Bladder irrigation, or rinsing the inside of the bladder, is done during the hospital stay and at home. This is a painless process to flush out the bladder and remove mucous. Mucous could clog the catheters and lead to infection and bladder stones. This will be part of your child's daily routine for the rest of their life.

You put saline (salted water) into the bladder through a catheter and let it drain back out or draw it out with a syringe.

How do I care for my child at home?

Your child can likely go back to regular activity in 3 to 4 weeks. Your nurse will teach you all you need to know to care for your child at home. You can also call the Urology Clinic with questions at any time. You and your child may need to come into the clinic once a week until the urinary catheters have all been removed. The Urologist will give you a plan for any care needed after that. Your urologist may recommend cystoscopies every few years in older children, and in adults with bladder augmentations.

Where can I learn more?

Mitrofanoff

- Mitrofanoff Channels (seattlechildrens.org/pdf/PE208.pdf)
- About Kid's Health: Mitrofanoff (aboutkidshealth.ca/En/HealthAZ/TestsAndTreatments/Procedures/Pages/Mitrofanoff.aspx)

Cystoscopy

- Cystoscopy: Care Afterward (seattlechildrens.org/pdf/PE016.pdf)

Bowel Preparation before Surgery

- Bowel Clean Out Using Golytely: Preparing Your Child For Intestinal Surgery (seattlechildrens.org/pdf/PE702.pdf)

Subrapubic Catheter Care

- Suprapubic Catheter Care (seattlechildrens.org/pdf/PE2040.pdf)