Hypospadias

Hypospadias is a condition where the opening of the urethra (meatus) is not at the tip of the penis. The opening is on the under side (ventrum) of the penis.

It can be:

- Mild (near the head of the penis)
- Severe (closer to the scrotum or even into or under the scrotum)

If left un repaired, hypospadias can result in impaired fertility because the semen is not directed straight. It can also be associated with curvature of the erect penis (chordee) which can make intercourse difficult or painful. Hypospadias can make it difficult to urinate in the standing position. The appearance may also be concerning to parents and patients.

Treatment includes:

1. Surgical repair is done in the operating room under general anesthesia. Your child usually goes home the same day of surgery.

2. Repair is generally done around 6-9 months of age. The anatomy of the penis has grown making the surgery less challenging. Also, anesthesia is safer at this age.

3. Boys with hypospadias are initially uncircumcised. This saves the foreskin for use in the surgical repair.

4. There are many types of repairs depending on the severity of the hypospadias.

After the Surgery:

- Some boys will have a soft flexible stent sewn in the urethra. It allows the bladder to drain and the surgical site to heal. The stent stays in place for 7-10 days.

- A dressing usually covers the surgical site. It provides pressure to help with bleeding and swelling. Your child’s surgeon will instruct you on how to care for the dressing and when to remove it or have it removed.

- Swelling and bruising are very common. It can take several weeks for this to go away.

- If a stent is in place, it should not be put in water. You may sponge bathe your child. Unless otherwise instructed, your child may bathe in a bathtub with shallow water below the level of the penis or shower after the dressing is removed.

- Your child may have pain medication as instructed for pain or discomfort.

- Your child may go back to his usual activities. He should not play on straddle toys.
Your child’s follow up appointment is:
_____/_____/______ at __________ in ________________________________

Call your child’s doctor or the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188 if:

- Your child is having difficulty urinating.
- Your child is having pain not relieved by the pain medication.
- There is continued bleeding.
- You have questions or concerns.