Caring for Your Child After Pyeloplasty

Your child had surgery to remove a blockage where the kidney drains into the ureter. This area is called the ureteropelvic junction (UPJ). This handout explains how to care for your child after surgery.

What to Expect

Stent/Drainage Tube
Some children have a ureteral stent after surgery. A stent is a small tube placed in the ureter and kidney. It helps urine drain into the bladder while the kidney and ureter heal. The stent may stay in place for several weeks. Your child's provider will let you know when it can be removed.

Your child's provider may also prescribe medicine while the stent is in place. This medicine helps prevent urinary tract infections.

Medicine
Your child may be sore, tired, and have pain or tenderness at the incision sites after surgery. Your child's provider will give medicine for pain.

If your child already takes a daily antibiotic, your provider will let you know of any changes to the medicines.

Bowel Movements
Your child should have has a soft, easy-to-pass bowel movement at least once a day. Your provider may prescribe MiraLax® powder to help soften the stool, or you may purchase this over the counter if you need to.

Urine Changes
You may notice mucus, pink colored urine or a small blood clot your child's urine. This is expected as your child heals and should go away in a week or so. If your child has a ureteral stent in place, you may see these in your child's urine off and on, especially with increased activity, until the stent is removed.

Your child may feel different sensations in their bladder while the stent is in place. This is called a bladder spasm. Your provider may prescribe another medicine to help with this sensation. This will go away after the stent is taken out.

Activity
For two weeks, your child should avoid:

- Contact/competitive sports.
- Running
- Jumping
- Swings
- Riding a bike
- Any activity that takes a lot of energy and movement

Your child should only do light activity. After 2 weeks, your child may slowly return to normal activities, pausing if they have any discomfort.

Diet
Your child should drink plenty of fluids such as water, after surgery and while the stent is in place.

Bathing
Please give your child sponge baths for the first 48 hours. Your child may bathe normally 48 hours after surgery.

Dressing Care
Your child may have more than one incision. Stitches are placed under the skin and covered with surgical glue. These will both dissolve on their own with regular bathing in 2-3 weeks. **Do not** pick at the glue or incisions. Let the incision heal on its own.

When to Call
Call the clinic if your child has:

- A fever higher than 101.5°F in 2 readings taken 4 hours apart
- Vomiting that does not stop
- Trouble keeping medicines down
- Severe pain that does not improve with scheduled pain medicine
- Large blood clots or more than 1 blood clot in the urine

Who to Call
If you have questions, please contact your provider through MyChart or call your provider listed in your After Visit Summary or After Hospital Care Plan. For a list of UW Health Clinics, visit www.uwhealth.org/.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 8/2026 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#5966