

**Office for Genetics
and
People with Special Health Care Needs**

**Hypospadias
Fact Sheet**

What Is Hypospadias?

- It is a condition in which the urinary opening (meatus) is not located in the typical position
- It is much more common in boys and is rare in girls

Signs and Symptoms

- Urinary opening below the tip on the bottom side of the penis
- Incomplete foreskin in which the foreskin extends only around the top of the penis
- Curvature of the penis during an erection called chordee
- Abnormal position of the scrotum in relation to the penis

Doctors sometimes refer to Hypospadias by the area where the urinary opening is located:

1. Glanular- The opening, while displaced, is still on the end of the penis
2. Coronal- The opening is at the groove where the glans (tip) joins the shaft
3. Penile- The opening is along the shaft of the penis
4. Scrotal- The opening is on the scrotum
5. Perineal- The opening is on the perineum (the area between the scrotum and the anus)

What is the cause?

- The cause of Hypospadias is unknown.
- Some doctors think that many factors, some genetic and some environmental, may act together to cause Hypospadias
- Most doctors think that the cause is not the same in every case. In some cases, Hypospadias is part of a syndrome (a group of birth defects that occur together) and some of these syndromes are genetic

Can my child be circumcised?

- It is recommended that a child with Hypospadias **not** be circumcised at birth. The foreskin is often used to repair the urinary tube.

Is there any treatment?

- If the Hypospadias is serious enough, an operation to repair it may be recommended. A special doctor called an urologist (or pediatric urologist) assists in deciding if an operation is needed.
- In some cases, treatment with testosterone (a male hormone) may be suggested before the repair to temporarily enlarge the penis to make it easier to do the repair

Support Groups/Resources

- March of Dimes
www.marchofdimes.com
1-410-546-2241
- Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs
<http://fha.maryland.gov/genetics/bdris.cfm>
1-800-638-8864
- The Parents' Place Of Maryland
www.ppm.org
410- 768-9100
- NIH Health information:
<http://health.nih.gov/topic/BirthDefects>
- CDC National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/index.html>
- National Organization of Rare Disorders (NORD)
<http://www.rarediseases.org/>
- Birth Defects Research for Children, Inc
<http://www.birthdefects.org/>