

improved cosmetic and functional outcomes in these boys. If children are old enough to understand what is occurring, the nurse also prepares them for the operation and the expected outcome.

Hypospadias repair may require some type of urinary diversion with a silicone stent or feeding tube to promote optimum healing and to maintain the position and patency of the newly formed urethra. This is left in the bladder to drain urine for 5 to 10 days. In most infants and children who are not toilet trained, the catheter drains directly into the diaper. In older children, the catheter is connected to a leg bag or a larger bedside bag at night. Drainage bags should always be positioned below the bladder level for proper drainage. Tub baths are avoided until the catheter is removed. Most children will have a caudal or penile nerve block in addition to general anesthesia, which lasts 6 to 8 hours.

Appropriate administration of prescribed pain medication for 48 to 72 hours after surgery will help control discomfort. When a catheter is left in place, bladder spasms are common and are very uncomfortable. Anticholinergic medications, such as oxybutynin, are typically used to prevent spasms. Parents should be advised of the possibility of bladder spasms, which are usually brief and intense and child may arch his back and bring his knees up to his chest and may leak urine around the catheter with a spasm.

Oxybutynin is given every 8 hours typically and may require dosing adjustment, such as increasing frequency to every 6 hours to control spasms. Once the catheter is removed, the medication is no longer needed. Often a prophylactic antibiotic is given until shortly after catheter removal. Anticholinergic medication is constipating, and this is a problem that is common in the postoperative period and may be avoided with preventative measures, such as giving adequate fluid and a stool softener or laxative if needed. Preparing parents for these potential problems is an important nursing responsibility. Patients usually go home with a dressing that often comes off in 1 to 2 days and typically is removed in the bath in 3 days if there is no stent in place. If the dressing is soiled, it can be cleaned gently and removed once the parent is prepared that the appearance of the penis is often swollen, discolored, and/or bruised; and this is expected and will resolve with time. While healing, applying petroleum jelly or KY jelly to the diaper to prevent the penis from sticking can help prevent bleeding and increase comfort.