

release, and urethral reconstruction is similar to care after hypospadias repair.

Children who fail to attain urinary continence after bladder neck reconstruction are offered a continent diversion. In addition to routine postoperative care, nursing after a continent diversion includes wound care, observation of nasogastric (NG) suction (surgery requires bowel resection), and measurement and observation of urinary output. Clean intermittent catheterization (CIC) is used to regularly empty the urinary reservoir. Most children are able to learn self-catheterization by 6 or 7 years old. Adult supervision is needed to ensure the child is compliant.

Family Support and Home Care

Bladder exstrophy and the other disorders of the EEC are significant congenital abnormalities that require lifelong care by a team of specialists. Improvement in surgical techniques has helped achieve better outcomes, specifically that of the goal of continence. Parental stress is significant, and support services may be helpful for positive adaptation. Patients may also benefit from psychological support as adjustment problems are common, particularly in adolescents. Parents should receive teaching and practice on care of the infant or child at home and have access to resources to call if there are questions. Allowing time for the parent to voice concerns can facilitate evaluation of their understanding and help direct discharge needs. When the infant is discharged with an unrepaired defect, plastic wrap is placed over the defect, and diapers are changed frequently to prevent infection, ulceration, and odor. Parents are taught to recognize the signs of UTI and to report a suspected infection to the practitioner. General infant care remains unchanged—except for sponge baths rather than immersion in water.

Disorders of Sex Development

Infants born with a discrepancy between external genitalia, gonadal, and chromosomal sex, are now referred to as having a **disorder of sex development (DSD)** (Lee, Houk, Ahmed, et al, 2006). The presentation at birth may be a genital appearance that does not permit gender declaration and this is termed **ambiguous**