

Early diagnosis and surgical correction or procedures that divert the flow of urine to bypass the obstruction may prevent progressive renal damage. Medical complications of acute or chronic renal failure (CRF) or infection are managed as described for those disorders.

Nursing Care Management

Nursing goals in urinary tract obstruction include helping to identify cases, assisting with diagnostic procedures, and caring for children with complications (described elsewhere). Preparing parents and children for procedures is a major nursing responsibility (see [Preparation for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures, Chapter 20](#)).

Parents and children need emotional support and counseling during the potentially lengthy management of these disorders. Children may be discharged with urinary drainage systems that require nursing education of the parents and older child to provide care and to recognize problems, such as obstruction of urine flow or infection. Drainage tubes should be observed for obstruction resulting from sediment, small blood clots, or kinking. If indicated, instructions on site care and drainage tube irrigation need to be provided, including observation for signs of infection or dislodgement.

Children with external diversional systems need psychological support and guidance, especially as they reach adolescence and body image concerns assume more prominence. Those with progressive renal deterioration may face the prospect of dialysis or transplantation and the physical and psychological challenges that accompany these procedures.

External Defects of the Genitourinary Tract

Defects of the external genitourinary tract have the potential to cause distortions of body image. Satisfactory surgical repair is successful for the more common disorders and is carried out or initiated as early as possible. The major anomalies of the lower genitourinary tract, their description, and their management are