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Penile Torsion

Penile torsion is a congenital rotation of the penile shaft. There is a line that runs straight up the underside of the penis called the median raphe. In the case of penile torsion, this line may spiral around the penile shaft. The glans or head of the penis is usually rotated in a counterclockwise direction, to the left side. In most cases, penile development is normal and the condition is usually unrecognized until after circumcision or in the case of an uncircumcised male it may not be noticed until the foreskin can be fully retracted.

Treatment

In the case of the rotation being less than 90°, no correction is necessary. However, if the torsion is greater than or equal to 90°, surgical correction is recommended. This requires a rearranging of the shaft skin so that the penile opening is straight and the shaft skin has a more normal appearance.

Post-Operative Care/Follow-Up

Your child may experience some pain or discomfort following surgery. Surgery is generally performed on an ambulatory outpatient basis. Acetaminophen (**Tylenol**) is usually sufficient to keep your child comfortable. If something stronger is needed, a prescription will be provided.

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