Meatotomy/meatoplasty: procedure-specific information

What is the evidence base for this information?
This leaflet includes advice from consensus panels, the British Association of Urological Surgeons, the Department of Health and evidence-based sources; it is, therefore, a reflection of best practice in the UK. It is intended to supplement any advice you may already have been given by your GP or other healthcare professionals. Alternative treatments are outlined below and can be discussed in more detail with your Urologist or Specialist Nurse.

What does the procedure involve?
Surgical enlargement of the opening of the urethra to remove narrowing causing a reduced urinary stream.

What are the alternatives to this procedure?
Stretching of the urethral opening, optical urethrotomy, self-dilatation, observation.

What should I expect before the procedure?
You will usually be admitted on the same day as your surgery. You will normally receive an appointment for pre-assessment, approximately 14 days before your admission, to assess your general fitness, to screen for the carriage of MRSA and to perform some baseline investigations. After admission, you will be seen by members of the medical team which may include the Consultant, Specialist Registrar, House Officer and your named nurse.

You will be asked not to eat or drink for 6 hours before surgery and, immediately before the operation, you may be given a pre-medication by the anaesthetist which will make you dry-mouthed and pleasantly sleepy. Please be sure to inform your Urologist in advance of your surgery if you have any of the following:

- an artificial heart valve
- a coronary artery stent
- a heart pacemaker or defibrillator
- an artificial joint
- an artificial blood vessel graft
- a neurosurgical shunt
- any other implanted foreign body
- a prescription for Warfarin, Aspirin or Clopidogrel (Plavix®)
- a previous or current MRSA infection
• high risk of variant CJD (if you have received a corneal transplant, a neurosurgical dural transplant or previous injections of human-derived growth hormone)

**What happens during the procedure?**
Either a full general anaesthetic (where you will be asleep throughout the procedure) or a spinal anaesthetic (where you are awake but unable to feel anything from the waist down) will be used. All methods minimise pain; your anaesthetist will explain the pros and cons of each type of anaesthetic to you.

You will usually be given an injectable antibiotic before the procedure after checking for any drug allergies.

The opening of the urethra is usually incised with either suturing of the edges of the incision or insertion of a skin graft into the opening. Absorbable sutures are used and do not require removal.

Occasionally, it is necessary to insert a catheter into the urethra (water pipe) after the procedure.

**What happens immediately after the procedure?**
If a catheter has been inserted, it is normally removed after 24 hours.

The average hospital stay is 1 day.

**Are there any side-effects?**
Most procedures have a potential for side-effects. You should be reassured that, although all these complications are well-recognised, the majority of patients do not suffer any problems after a urological procedure.

Please use the check boxes to tick off individual items when you are happy that they have been discussed to your satisfaction:
Common (greater than 1 in 10)
- Mild burning or bleeding on passing urine for a short time after the procedure
- Spraying of the urinary stream
- Infection of the bladder requiring antibiotics
- Temporary insertion of a catheter

Occasional (between 1 in 10 and 1 in 50)
- Recurrence of the scarring requiring further surgery
- Infection of the urethra resulting in abscess formation
- Breakdown and infection of the wound requiring further surgery

Rare (less than 1 in 50)
- Delayed bleeding requiring removal of blood clots or further surgery

Hospital-acquired infection (overall risk for Addenbrooke’s)
- Colonisation with MRSA (0.02%, 1 in 5,000)
- Clostridium difficile bowel infection (0.04%; 1 in 2,500)
- MRSA bloodstream infection (0.01%; 1 in 10,000)

(These rates may be greater in high-risk patients e.g. with long-term drainage tubes, after removal of the bladder for cancer, after previous infections, after prolonged hospitalisation or after multiple admissions)

What should I expect when I get home?
When you leave hospital, you will be given a “draft” discharge summary of your admission. This holds important information about your inpatient stay and your operation. If, in the first few weeks after your discharge, you need to call your GP for any reason or to attend another hospital, please take this summary with you to allow the doctors to see details of your treatment. This is particularly important if you need to consult another doctor within a few days of your discharge.

When you get home, you should drink twice as much fluid as you would normally for the next 24-48 hours to flush your system through. You may find that, when you first pass urine, it stings or burns slightly and it may be lightly bloodstained. If you continue to drink plenty of fluid, this discomfort and bleeding will resolve rapidly.

What else should I look out for?
If you develop a fever, severe pain on passing urine, inability to pass urine of worsening bleeding, you should contact your GP immediately.

Are there any other important points?
Depending on the underlying problem, an outpatient appointment, further treatment or another admission may be arranged for you before you leave hospital. Your Consultant or named nurse will explain the details of this to you.
Driving after surgery
It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fit to drive following your surgery. You do not normally need to notify the DVLA unless you have a medical condition that will last for longer than 3 months after your surgery and may affect your ability to drive. You should, however, check with your insurance company before returning to driving. Your doctors will be happy to provide you with advice on request.

Is there any research being carried out in this field at Addenbrooke’s Hospital?
There is no specific research in this area at the moment but all operative procedures performed in the department are subject to rigorous audit at a monthly Audit & Clinical Governance meeting.

Who can I contact for more help or information?

Oncology Nurses
- Uro-Oncology Nurse Specialist
  01223 586748
- Bladder cancer Nurse Practitioner (haematuria, chemotherapy & BCG)
  01223 274608
- Prostate cancer Nurse Practitioner
  01223 247608 or 216897 or bleep 154-548
- Surgical Care Practitioner
  01223 348590 or 256157 or bleep 154-134

Non-Oncology Nurses
- Urology Nurse Practitioner (incontinence, urodynamics, catheter patients)
  01223 274608 or 586748
- Urology Nurse Practitioner (stoma care)
  01223 349800

Patient Advice & Liaison Centre (PALS)
- Telephone
  +44 (0)1223 216756 or 257257
  +44 (0)1223 274432 or 274431
- PatientLine
  *801 (from patient bedside telephones only)
- E mail
  pals@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
- Mail
  PALS, Box No 53
  Addenbrooke's Hospital
  Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ
Chaplaincy and Multi-Faith Community
- Telephone  
  +44 (0)1223 217769  
- E mail  
  derek.fraser@addenbrookes.nhs.uk  
- Mail  
  The Chaplaincy, Box No 105  
  Addenbrooke's Hospital  
  Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ

MINICOM System ("type" system for the hard of hearing)  
- Telephone  
  +44 (0)1223 274604

Access Office (travel, parking & security information)  
- Telephone  
  +44 (0)1223 586969

What should I do with this form?  
Thank you for taking the trouble to read this information sheet. If you wish to sign it and retain a copy for your own records, please do so below.

If you would like a copy of this form to be filed in your hospital records for future reference, please let your Urologist or Specialist Nurse know. If you do, however, decide to proceed with the scheduled procedure, you will be asked to sign a separate consent form which will be filed in your hospital notes and you will, in addition, be provided with a copy of the form if you wish.

I have read this information sheet and I accept the information it provides.

Signature.........................................................Date............................................

How can I get information in alternative formats?  
Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish  
Informacje te można otrzymać w innych językach, w wersji dużym drukiem lub audio. Zamówienia prosimy składać pod numerem: 01223 216032 lub wysyłając e-mail: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese  
Se precisar desta informação num outro idioma, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio por favor telefone para o 01223 216032 ou envie uma mensagem para: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
Addenbrooke’s is smoke-free. You cannot smoke anywhere on the site. Smoking increases the severity of some urological diseases and increases the risk of post-operative complications. For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free on 0800 169 0 169

Document history

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