Pediatric Urology

The pediatric urology program at the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital provides treatment and surgery for newborns, infants, and children with urologic conditions from common to rare. The program excels in reconstructive surgery.

GENITALIA
- Hypospadias/Epispadias
- Undescended Testis
- Hydrocele/Hernia
- Testis Tumors

BLADDER
- Vesicoureteral Reflux
- Posterior Urethral Valves
- Bladder/Cloacal Exstrophy
- Neurogenic Bladder
- Recurrent UTIs
- Cystitis
- Tumors
- Incontinence and Enuresis

KIDNEY
- Hydronephrosis
- Tumors
- Trauma
- Duplication Anomalies
- UPJ Obstruction

IN-UTERO
- Antenatal Hydronephrosis
- Multi Cystic Dysplastic Kidney
- Duplication Abnormalities
- Ureterocele

OTHER
- Intersex/Vaginoplasty
- Urologic Care of Spina Bifida
- Urodynamic Evaluation
- Urinary Tract Stones
- Urachal Anomalies
- Complex Reconstructive Urology

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPROACHES
Over 25 percent of abnormalities found at birth involve the genitalia or urinary tract. Fortunately, many of these problems resolve over time and only require medical treatment and careful follow-up. Common problems, such as undescended testes and abnormalities of the penis and urethra, need surgical repair that is best done in the first year of life. Kidney and bladder obstruction that is severe may require surgery in the immediate newborn period to prevent infection and kidney damage. Correction of urinary tract obstruction prevents further damage and enables the developing organs to heal, thereby often eliminating the need for additional surgeries. It is very important that all babies with urologic abnormalities be seen by a pediatric urologist as soon as possible after birth for prompt diagnosis and treatment.

PRENATAL TESTING AND CONSULTATION
Our pediatric urology program offers prenatal consultation to families who are expecting a baby who has had an abnormality detected on prenatal ultrasound. During the consultation visit, the pediatric urologist reviews the prenatal ultrasounds with the family and explains the baby's urologic anatomy and possible diagnoses. The tests that are needed after the baby is born are also explained. Our pediatric urologist will contact the referring physicians regarding the baby's diagnosis and any special considerations for the baby's delivery. This service allows us to provide the highest quality of care for the baby as soon as possible after birth.

COMMON UROLOGIC PROBLEMS
While not life threatening, common urologic problems, such as bladder infections, daytime accidents, and bedwetting, greatly impact the physical and psychological health of youngsters. In addition, these problems are related to some of the more serious pelvic floor disorders seen in adults. The urological program here has an outpatient center for children with voiding problems that provides specialty testing and treatment. Through the use of a

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technique called bladder retraining, which focuses on simple changes in bathroom habits and diet, most of these problems can be corrected.

**ENDOSCOPIC CORRECTION OF VESICoureTERAL REFUX**
A common urologic abnormality is vesicoureteral reflux or the retrograde flow of urine from the bladder to the kidneys. Initially vesicoureteral reflux is managed conservatively with prophylactic antibiotic therapy and close observation. If surgery is needed, reflux has traditionally been corrected by open bladder techniques. At Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital, the pediatric urologist is able to correct reflux in many patients with a minimally invasive outpatient procedure. Working through a small endoscope placed into the bladder through the urethra, the pediatric urologist injects a copolymer bulking agent just beneath the opening of the ureter. This procedure is highly successful, has few complications, and allows the child to return to full activity the following day.

**SPINA BIFIDA-RELATED PROBLEMS**
The urology program provides specialty care for children with bladder abnormalities caused by a spinal cord abnormality known as spina bifida. Nerve damage to the bladder and urinary sphincter leads to continued wetting, urinary tract infections, and kidney damage. All of these patients require careful follow-up, and many require complex reconstructive surgeries. At Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital, urologist Clare Close works with other specialists to provide comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for these children.

Dr. Close is known as providing compassionate and state-of-the-art care to children and their families supported by her research, clinical, and surgical excellence. Dr. Close’s areas of clinical expertise include hypospadias, bladder exstrophy, vesicoureteral reflux, ureteroceles, posterior urethral valves, and urinary tract reconstruction of the neurogenic bladder. She is internationally recognized for her research and writing on the topics of congenital bladder outlet obstruction and alternative methods of bladder augmentation.

Dr. Close is board certified in urology. Following her medical school and residency training at the University of Washington in Seattle, she completed a two-year clinical and research fellowship in pediatric urology at the Children’s Hospital and Regional Medical Center, Seattle. Dr. Close is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Society for Pediatric Urology.

To schedule a clinic appointment with Dr. Close, please call (773) 702-6169.

To consult directly with Dr. Close, please call (773) 834-1624.

To learn more about the Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital, visit us at www.uchicagokidshospital.org.