



Understanding children's misconceptions about hypospadias and glans anatomy

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Description

Hypospadias is a congenital condition that affects the male urinary tract, leading to an abnormal positioning of the urethral opening. Understanding the correct information about hypospadias and glans anatomy is essential, especially in the context of pediatric care. Hypospadias is a congenital condition in which the urethral opening is located on the underside of the penis rather than at the tip. It is one of the most frequent congenital anomalies in boys, affecting approximately 1 in 250 live male births.

One of the most prevalent misconceptions about hypospadias is that it is merely a cosmetic issue. In reality, hypospadias can affect both urinary and sexual function in adulthood. The surgery for hypospadias correction aims to address these functional aspects while also improving the appearance of the penis. Some parents aspire that their child's hypospadias will resolve on its own. Unfortunately, hypospadias does not self-correct, and surgical intervention is almost always necessary to reposition the urethral opening to its correct location.

The glans penis, often referred to simply as the glans, is the bulbous structure at the tip of the penis. It plays a significant role in both urinary function and sexual pleasure. A common misconception is that all glans penises are identical. However, in cases of hypospadias, the glans may be underdeveloped or have an atypical appearance, often requiring surgical reconstruction to achieve a normal look and function. Surgical correction of hypospadias is typically performed in multiple stages to create a functional and aesthetically pleasing penis. The primary goals are to reposition the urethral opening to the tip of the penis and to reconstruct the glans when necessary.

A common misconception is that one-stage surgery is always the superior choice for hypospadias correction. While one-stage surgery can be effective in certain cases, it is not suitable for all patients, especially those with more complex forms of hypospadias. The decision between one-stage and multi-stage surgery is determined by the individual patient's anatomy and requirements. While hypospadias surgery is highly successful, it may not always yield a perfect outcome. The success of the surgery depends on factors such as the surgeon's skill, the complexity of the case, and the patient's unique anatomy. Patients and their families should be prepared for the possibility of additional surgeries or complications.

After hypospadias surgery, catheterization is often necessary to maintain the patency of the newly reconstructed urethra. This process can be stressful for both the child and their parents. There is a common misconception that catheterization after hypospadias surgery is always painful. While it can be uncomfortable,

the degree of discomfort varies among patients. Proper instructions and a gentle approach can help minimize the discomfort associated with catheterization. Growing up with hypospadias can have psychological and emotional effects on children and adolescents. They may feel self-conscious about their condition, which can impact their self-esteem and body image.

Some parents and healthcare providers may underestimate the importance of psychological support for children with hypospadias. Offering emotional support, open communication, and, if necessary, counseling can help children cope with the challenges associated with their condition. Regular follow-up appointments with a pediatric urologist are crucial for monitoring the child's progress after hypospadias surgery. Follow-up allows for the detection and management of any complications and ensures that the surgical outcome is satisfactory. Parents may believe that once hypospadias is surgically

corrected, the issue is permanently resolved. However, continued follow-up is essential to address potential long-term complications and provide additional care as the child grows.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Hypospadias is a common congenital condition in boys, and understanding the facts and dispelling misconceptions about glans anatomy, hypospadias surgery, and postoperative care is essential for the well-being of pediatric patients and their families. By providing accurate information and comprehensive support, healthcare professionals can ensure that children with hypospadias receive the best possible care and outcomes, both in terms of aesthetics and function. Addressing the psychological and emotional aspects of the condition is equally vital to help these children grow into confident, healthy adults.