

Hypospadias

What is it?

Hypospadias (pronounced hype-oh-spay-dee-us) is a birth defect in boys affecting the urethra. The **urethra** is the tube that carries urine from the bladder to the outside of the body. **Hypospadias** occurs when the urethra is short and does not come to the end of the penis. The opening through which the child urinates may be located anywhere along the underside of the shaft of the penis or the scrotum. There are three main types of hypospadias:

- **Subcoronal:** The opening of the urethra is somewhere near the head of the penis.
- **Midshaft:** The opening of the urethra is somewhere along the shaft of the penis.
- **Penoscrotal:** The opening of the urethra is where the penis and scrotum meet.

Other issues can occur in boys with hypospadias, including a curved penis, testicles not in the scrotum, and difficulty urinating while standing.

How common is it?

It is one of the most common birth defects. About 5 out of every 1,000 boys are born with it each year in the United States.

What causes it?

Currently, the exact cause of hypospadias is not known. There may be many factors that cause it. More research is needed to understand the causes and risk factors.

How is it diagnosed?

Hypospadias is usually diagnosed after birth. The doctor will check the baby for any abnormalities or signs and symptoms of certain conditions.

How is it treated?

Most cases of hypospadias can be corrected by a single surgery within the first year or two of life. The goals of surgery are to allow normal urination and correct any abnormalities of the penis. Your child's doctor will discuss appropriate treatment options with you.

For more information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/hypospadias.html>

Mayo Clinic

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hypospadias/symptoms-causes/syc-20355148>