Bladder Exstrophy

What is bladder extrophy?

Bladder extrophy occurs when the bladder and its associated structures are improperly formed. Normally, the bladder is round; children with bladder extrophy have a flattened bladder. In addition, the bladder is exposed outside the abdomen (stomach area) because the skin covering the abdomen does not form properly.

![Diagram of the urinary system](Diagram courtesy of the National Library of Medicine)

What causes bladder extrophy?

Currently, the exact cause of bladder extrophy is unknown. Children with bladder extrophy usually also have other abnormalities of the abdominal muscles and pelvic bones. Approximately 1 out of every 30,000 children are born with bladder extrophy.

How is bladder extrophy treated?

Bladder extrophy is treated surgically. Several surgical treatment options are available, but they depend upon the severity of the condition. The goals of treatment include correcting the abnormal placement of the bladder and ensuring that the child’s kidneys function properly. Your child’s doctor(s) will discuss appropriate treatment options with you.

For more information

Association for the Bladder Exstrophy Community - [http://www.bladderextrophy.com/](http://www.bladderextrophy.com/)

Sources: [http://www.urolgyhealth.org](http://www.urolgyhealth.org), American Urological Association