

# Guidelines on Paediatric Urology

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Aim

A collaborative working group consisting of members representing the European Society for Paediatric Urology (ESPU) and the European Association of Urology (EAU) has prepared these Guidelines to make a document available that may help to increase the quality of care for children with urological problems. This compilation document addresses a number of common clinical pathologies in paediatric urological practice, but covering the entire field of paediatric urology in a single guideline document is unattainable.

The majority of urological clinical problems in children are distinct and in many ways differ to those in adults. This publication intends to outline a practical and preliminary approach to paediatric urological problems. Complex and rare conditions that require special care with experienced doctors should be referred to designated centres where paediatric urology practice has been fully established and a multidisciplinary approach is available.

For quite some time, paediatric urology has informally developed, expanded, matured and established its diverse body of knowledge and expertise and may now be ready to distinguish itself from its parent specialties. Thus, paediatric urology has recently emerged in many European countries as a distinct subspecialty of both urology and paediatric surgery, and presents a unique challenge in the sense that it covers a large area with many different schools of thought and a huge diversity in management.

Knowledge gained by increasing experience, new technological advances and non-invasive diagnostic screening modalities has had a profound influence on treatment modalities in paediatric urology, a trend that is likely to continue in the years to come.

## 1.2 Publication history

The Paediatric Urology Guidelines were first published in 2001 with subsequent partial updates in 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and this 2015 publication which includes a number of updated chapters and sections as detailed below:

- 3A Phimosis: The literature has been updated
- 3B Cryptorchidism: The literature has been updated, minor text revisions made and one new recommendation added
- 3C Hydrocele: The literature has been updated
- 3D Acute scrotum in children: The literature has been updated and minor text revisions made
- 3E Hypospadias: The literature has been updated extensively
- 3G Varicocele in children and adolescents: The literature has been updated extensively
- 3H Urinary tract infections in children: The literature has been updated and minor revisions made to the text
- 3I Daytime lower urinary tract conditions: The literature has been updated, text revised and a recommendation added
- 3J Monosymptomatic enuresis: The literature has been updated, text revised and three recommendations added
- 3L Dilatation of the upper urinary tract: The literature has been updated
- 3O Obstructive pathology of renal duplication ureterocele and ectopic ureter: The literature has been updated
- 3Q Posterior urethral valves: The literature has been updated, minor revisions made to the text and some updates made to the recommendations

In addition, the text has been significantly reduced so that only key information is included and re-formatted according to the EAU template for non-oncology Guidelines, so that all Guidelines follow a similar format. This document was peer-reviewed prior to publication.

Standard procedure for EAU publications includes an annual scoping search to guide updates. A shorter reference document, the Pocket Guidelines, is also available, both in print and as a mobile application, presenting the main findings of the Paediatric Urology Guidelines. These versions are abridged and therefore may require consultation with the full text version. All are available through the EAU website: <http://www.uroweb.org/guidelines>.

## 2. METHODS

These Guidelines were compiled based on current literature following a systematic review using MEDLINE. Application of a structured analysis of the literature was not possible in many conditions due to a lack of well-designed studies. The limited availability of large randomised controlled trials (RCTs) - influenced also by the fact that a considerable number of treatment options relate to surgical interventions on a large spectrum of different congenital problems - means this document is largely a consensus document. Clearly there is a need for continuous re-evaluation of the information presented in this current document.

It must be emphasised that clinical guidelines present the best evidence available but following the recommendations will not necessarily result in the best outcome. Guidelines can never replace clinical expertise when making treatment decisions for individual patients, also taking into account individual circumstances and patient and parent preferences.

References used in this text are graded according to their Level of Evidence (LE) and Guidelines are given a Grade of Recommendation (GR). In this 2015 EAU Guidelines compilation, all standard information on LE and GR has been taken out of the individual Guidelines topics for the sake of brevity. The methodology section (see the introduction chapter of the complete book) outlines the LE and GR criteria which are used throughout the Guidelines, according to a classification system modified from the Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine Levels of Evidence [1].

## 3. THE GUIDELINE

### 3A PHIMOSIS

#### 3A.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

At the end of the first year of life, retraction of the foreskin behind the glandular sulcus is possible in only about 50% of boys; this rises to approximately 89% by the age of 3 years. The incidence of phimosis is 8% in 6-7 year olds and just 1% in males aged 16-18 years [2].

#### 3A.2 Classification systems

The phimosis is either primary with no sign of scarring, or secondary (pathological) to a scarring such as balanitis xerotica obliterans (BXO) [2]. BXO, also termed lichen sclerosus, has been recently found in 17% of boys younger than 10 years presenting with phimosis. The clinical appearance in children may be confusing and does not correlate with the final histopathological results. Chronic inflammation was the most common finding [3] (LE: 2b).

Phimosis has to be distinguished from normal agglutination of the foreskin to the glans, which is a more or less lasting physiological phenomenon with well-visible meatus and free partial retraction [4].

Paraphimosis must be regarded as an emergency situation: retraction of a too narrow prepuce behind the glans penis into the glanular sulcus may constrict the shaft and lead to oedema of the glans and retracted foreskin. It interferes with perfusion distally from the constrictive ring and brings a risk of preputial necrosis.

#### 3A.3 Diagnostic evaluation

The diagnosis of phimosis and paraphimosis is made by physical examination.

If the prepuce is not retractable or only partly retractable and shows a constrictive ring on drawing back over the glans penis, a disproportion between the width of the foreskin and the diameter of the glans penis has to be assumed. In addition to the constricted foreskin, there may be adhesions between the inner surface of the prepuce and the glanular epithelium and/or a fraenum breve.

Paraphimosis is characterised by a retracted foreskin with the constrictive ring localised at the level of the sulcus, which prevents replacement of the foreskin over the glans.

#### 3A.4 Disease management

Conservative treatment is an option for primary phimosis. A corticoid ointment or cream (0.05-0.1%) can be administered twice a day over a period of 20-30 days with a success rate of > 90% [5-8] (LE: 1b; GR: A). A recurrence rate up to 17% can be expected [9]. This treatment has no side effects and the mean bloodspot cortisol levels are not significantly different from an untreated group of patients [10] (LE: 1b). The hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis was not influenced by local corticoid treatment [11]. Agglutination of the foreskin does not respond to steroid treatment [7] (LE: 2).



Operative treatment of phimosis in children is dependent on the parents' preferences and can be plastic or radical circumcision after completion of the second year of life. Alternatively, the Shang Ring may be used especially in developing countries [12]. Plastic circumcision has the objective of achieving a wide foreskin circumference with full retractability, while the foreskin is preserved (dorsal incision, partial circumcision). However, this procedure carries the potential for recurrence of the phimosis [13]. In the same session, adhesions are released and an associated fraenum breve is corrected by fraenulotomy. Meatoplasty is added if necessary.

An absolute indication for circumcision is secondary phimosis. In primary phimosis, recurrent balanoposthitis and recurrent urinary tract infections in patients with urinary tract abnormalities are indications for intervention [14-17] (LE: 2b; GR: B). Male circumcision significantly reduces the bacterial colonisation of the glans penis with regard to both non-uropathogenic and uropathogenic bacteria [18] (LE: 2b). Simple ballooning of the foreskin during micturition is not a strict indication for circumcision.

Routine neonatal circumcision to prevent penile carcinoma is not indicated. A recent meta-analysis could not find any risk in uncircumcised patients without a history of phimosis [19]. Contraindications for circumcision are: an acute local infection and congenital anomalies of the penis, particularly hypospadias or buried penis, because the foreskin may be required for a reconstructive procedure [20, 21]. Circumcision can be performed in children with coagulopathy with 1-5% of complications (bleeding) if haemostatic agents or diathermic knife are used [22, 23]. Childhood circumcision has an appreciable morbidity and should not be recommended without a medical reason and also taking into account epidemiological and social aspects [24-28] (LE: 1b; GR: B).

Treatment of paraphimosis consists of manual compression of the oedematous tissue with a subsequent attempt to retract the tightened foreskin over the glans penis. Injection of hyaluronidase beneath the narrow band; or 20% mannitol may be helpful to release the foreskin [29, 30] (LE: 3-4; GR: B-C). If this manoeuvre fails, a dorsal incision of the constrictive ring is required. Depending on the local findings, a circumcision is carried out immediately or can be performed in a second session.

### 3A.5 Follow-up

Any surgery done on prepuce requires an early follow-up of 4-6 weeks after surgery.

### 3A.6 Conclusions and recommendations on phimosis

| Conclusion  |    |    |
|---|----|----|
| Treatment for phimosis usually starts after two years of age or according to parents' preference.   |    |    |
| Recommendations   | LE | GR |
| In primary phimosis, conservative treatment with a corticoid ointment or cream is a first line treatment with a success rate of more than 90%.                | 1b | A  |
| In primary phimosis, recurrent balanoposthitis and recurrent UTI in patients with urinary tract abnormalities are indications for active intervention.        | 2b | A  |
| Secondary phimosis is an absolute indication for circumcision.  | 2b | A  |
| Paraphimosis is an emergency situation and treatment must not be delayed. If manual reposition fails, a dorsal incision of the constrictive ring is required. | 3  | B  |
| Routine neonatal circumcision to prevent penile carcinoma is not indicated.   | 2b | B  |

UTI = urinary tract infection.

## 3B CRYPTORCHIDISM

### 3B.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

At one year of age, nearly 1% of all full-term male infants have cryptorchidism, which is the commonest congenital anomaly affecting the genitalia of newborn male infants [31].

### 3B.2 Classification systems

The most useful classification of cryptorchidism is into palpable and non-palpable testes, and clinical management is decided by the location and presence of the testes. Approximately 70% of all undescended testes are palpable [32].

- Retractable testes require only observation because they may become ascendant. Although they have

- completed their descent, a strong cremasteric reflex may cause their retention in the groin [33].
- Bilateral, non-palpable testes and any suggestion of sexual differentiation problems (e.g. hypospadias) require urgent, mandatory endocrinological and genetic evaluation [34] (LE: 3; GR: B).

### 3B.3 Diagnostic evaluation

Physical examination is the only way of differentiating between palpable or non-palpable testes. Usually there is no benefit in performing ultrasound (US), computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or angiography [35].

Clinical examination includes a visual description of the scrotum and assessment of the child in both the supine and crossed-leg positions. The examiner should inhibit the cremasteric reflex with his/her non-dominant hand, immediately above the symphysis in the groin region, before touching or reaching for the scrotum. The groin region may be “milked” towards the scrotum in an attempt to move the testis into the scrotum. This manoeuvre also allows an inguinal testis to be differentiated from enlarged lymph nodes that could give the impression of an undescended testis. A retractile testis can generally be brought into the scrotum, where it will remain until a cremasteric reflex (touching the inner thigh skin) retracts it into the groin [36].

A unilateral, non-palpable testis and an enlarged contralateral testis suggest testicular absence or atrophy, but this is not a specific finding and does not preclude surgical exploration. An inguinal, non-palpable testis requires specific visual inspection of the femoral, penile and perineal regions to exclude an ectopic testis. Diagnostic laparoscopy is the only examination that can reliably confirm or exclude an intra-abdominal, inguinal and absent/vanishing testis (non-palpable testis) [37]. Before carrying out laparoscopic assessment, examination under general anaesthesia is recommended because some, originally non-palpable, testes become palpable under anaesthetic conditions.

### 3B.4 Disease management

Treatment should be done as early as possible around one year of age, starting after six months and finishing preferably at 12 months of age, or 18 months at the latest [38-41]. This timing is driven by the final adult results on spermatogenesis and hormone production, as well as the risk for tumours.

#### 3B.4.1 Medical therapy

Medical therapy using human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) or gonadotrophin-releasing hormone (GnRH) is based on the hormonal dependence of testicular descent, with maximum success rates of 20% [42, 43]. However, it must be taken into account that almost 20% of descended testes have the risk of reascending later.

Hormonal therapy for testicular descent has lower success rates, the higher the undescended testis is located. A total dose of 6000-9000 U hCG is given in four doses over a period of 2-3 weeks, depending on weight and age, along with GnRH, given for 4 weeks as a nasal spray at a dose of 1.2 mg/day, divided into three doses per day.

Medical treatment with GnRH may be beneficial before surgical orchidolysis and orchidopexy (dosage as described earlier) or afterwards (low intermittent dosages), in terms of increasing the fertility index, which is a predictor for fertility in later life [44]. Long-term follow-up data are still awaited. Nonetheless, it has been reported that hCG treatment may be harmful to future spermatogenesis through increased apoptosis of germ cells, including acute inflammatory changes in the testes and reduced testicular volume in adulthood. Therefore, the Nordic Consensus Statement on treatment of undescended testes does not recommend it on a routine basis because there is not sufficient evidence for a beneficial effect of hormonal treatment before or after surgery. However, this statement relied only on data from hormonal treatment using hCG [45, 46].

#### 3B.4.2 Surgery

If a testis has not concluded its descent at the age of six months (corrected for gestational age) surgery should be performed within the subsequent year, with age 18 months the latest since histological examination of cryptorchid testes has revealed that undescended testes suffer a progressive loss of germ cells as well as Leydig cells [47].

#### *Palpable testis*

Surgery for a palpable testis includes orchidofuniculolysis and orchidopexy, via an inguinal approach, with success rates of up to 92% [48]. It is important to remove and dissect all cremasteric fibres to prevent secondary retraction. Alternatively a primary scrotal approach is also an option and has been documented to be of equal effectiveness in selected patients with a testis located distal to the external inguinal ring that can be mobilised adequately via a scrotal incision [49]. Associated problems, such as an open processus vaginalis, must be carefully dissected and closed. Any additional pathology has to also be taken care of, e.g. removal of an appendix testis. It is recommended that the testis is placed in a subdartos pouch. With regard to sutures,

there should be no fixation sutures or they should be made between the tunica vaginalis and the dartos musculature.

The lymph drainage of a testis that has undergone surgery for orchidopexy has been changed from iliac drainage to iliac and inguinal drainage (important in the event of later malignancy). Scrotal orchidopexy can also be an option in less-severe cases and when performed by surgeons with experience using that approach.

#### *Non-palpable testis*

A thorough examination once the boy is under general anaesthesia is recommended since a previously non-palpable testis might be identifiable and subsequently changed the surgical approach to a standard inguinal orchidopexy as described above. Otherwise laparoscopy or inguinal surgical exploration with possible laparoscopy should be attempted for non-palpable testes [50]. There is a significant chance of finding the testis via an inguinal incision. In rare cases, it is necessary to search into the abdomen if there are no vessels or vas deferens in the groin. Laparoscopy is the best way of examining the abdomen for a testis. In addition, either removal or orchidolysis and orchidopexy can be performed via laparoscopic access [51].

For boys aged  $\geq 10$  years with an intra-abdominal testis, with a normal contralateral testis, removal is an option because of the theoretical risk of later malignancy. In bilateral intra-abdominal testes, or in boys  $< 10$  years, a one-stage or two-stage Fowler-Stephens procedure can be performed. In the event of a two-stage procedure, the spermatic vessels are laparoscopically clipped or coagulated proximal to the testis to allow development of collateral vasculature [52]. The second-stage procedure, in which the testis is brought directly over the symphysis and next to the bladder into the scrotum, can also be performed by laparoscopy or open surgery 6 months later. The testicular survival rate in the one-stage procedure varies between 50-60%, with success rates increasing up to 90% for the two-stage procedure [53, 54]. Microvascular autotransplantation can also be performed with a 90% testicular survival rate. However, the procedure requires skilled and experienced surgeons [53].

### **3B.5 Follow-up**

Although boys with one undescended testis have a lower fertility rate, they have the same paternity rate as those with bilateral descended testes. Boys with bilateral undescended testes have lower fertility and paternity rates. Fertility rate is the number of offspring born per mating pair, individual or population, whereas paternity reflects the actual potential of fatherhood.

Boys with an undescended testis have an increased risk of developing testicular malignancy. Screening both during and after puberty is therefore recommended for these boys. A Swedish study, with a cohort of almost 17,000 men who were treated surgically for undescended testis and followed for ~210,000 person-years, showed that treatment for undescended testis before puberty decreased the risk of testicular cancer. The relative risk of testicular cancer among those who underwent orchidopexy before 13 years of age was 2.23 when compared with the Swedish general population; this increased to 5.40 for those treated at  $\geq 13$  years [55].

A systematic review and meta-analysis of the literature have also concluded that prepubertal orchidopexy may decrease the risk of testicular cancer and that early surgical intervention is indicated in children with cryptorchidism [56]. Boys with retractile testes do not need medical or surgical treatment, but require close follow-up until puberty.

### **3B.6 Recommendations for cryptorchidism**

| <b>Recommendations</b>  | <b>LE</b> | <b>GR</b> |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Boys with retractile testes do not need medical or surgical treatment, but require close follow-up until puberty.   | 2a        | A         |
| Surgical orchidolysis and orchidopexy should be concluded at the age of 12 months, or 18 months at the latest.  | 3         | B         |
| In the case of non-palpable testes and no evidence of disorders of sex development, laparoscopy still represents the gold standard because it has almost 100% sensitivity and specificity in identifying an intra-abdominal testis as well as the possibility for subsequent treatment in the same session. | 1a        | A         |
| Hormonal therapy, either in an adjuvant or neo-adjuvant setting, is not standard treatment. Patients have to be evaluated on an individual basis.   | 2a        | C         |
| For an intra-abdominal testis in a 10-year-old boy or older, with a normal contralateral testis, removal is an option because of the theoretical risk of a later malignancy.  | 3         | B         |
| Male newborns with bilateal non-palpable testes should be evaluated for possible disorders of sex development.  | 1         | A         |

## 3C HYDROCELE

### 3C.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Hydrocele is defined as a collection of fluid between the parietal and visceral layers of tunica vaginalis [57]. Pathogenesis of primary hydrocele is based on patency of processus vaginalis in contrast with secondary hydrocele. Incomplete obliteration of the processus vaginalis peritonei results in formation of various types of communicating hydrocele; a large open processus vaginalis allowing passage of abdominal viscera results in clinical hernia [58]. The exact time of spontaneous closure of the processus vaginalis is not known. It persists in approximately 80-94% of newborns and in 20% of adults [59]. If complete obliteration of the processus vaginalis occurs with patency of midportion, a hydrocele of the cord occurs. Scrotal hydroceles without associated patency of the processus vaginalis are encountered in newborns also [60]. Non-communicating hydroceles, based on an imbalance between the secretion and reabsorption of this fluid, are found secondary to minor trauma, testicular torsion, epididymitis, varicocele operation or may appear as a recurrence after primary repair of a communicating or non-communicating hydrocele.

### 3C.2 Diagnostic evaluation

The classic description of a communicating hydrocele is that of a hydrocele that vacillates in size, and is usually related to ambulation. It may be diagnosed by history and physical investigation. Transillumination of the scrotum makes the diagnosis in the majority of cases, keeping in mind that fluid-filled intestine and some prepubertal tumours such as teratomas may transilluminate as well [61, 62]. If the diagnosis is that of a hydrocele, there will be no history of reducibility and no associated symptoms; the swelling is translucent, smooth and usually non-tender. If there are any doubts about the character of an intrascrotal mass, scrotal ultrasound should be performed and has nearly 100% sensitivity in detecting intrascrotal lesions. Doppler ultrasound studies help to distinguish hydroceles from varicocele and testicular torsion, although these conditions may also be accompanied by a hydrocele.

### 3C.3 Disease management

In the majority of infants, the surgical treatment of hydrocele is not indicated within the first 12-24 months because of the tendency for spontaneous resolution [63] (LE: 2; GR: B). Little risk is taken by initial observation because progression to hernia is rare and does not result in incarceration [63]. Early surgery is indicated if there is suspicion of a concomitant inguinal hernia or underlying testicular pathology [64, 65] (LE: 2; GR: B). Persistence of a simple scrotal hydrocele beyond 24 months of age may be an indication for surgical correction. There is no evidence that this type of hydrocele risks testicular damage. The natural history of hydrocele is poorly documented beyond the age of 2 years and there is no good evidence to support current practice, according to a systematic review. Delaying surgery may reduce the number of procedures necessary without increasing morbidity [66].

The question of contralateral disease should be addressed by both history and physical examination at the time of initial consultation (LE: 2) [67]. In late-onset hydrocele, suggestive of a non-communicating hydrocele, there is a reasonable chance of spontaneous resolution (75%) and expectant management of 6-9 months is recommended [68]. In the paediatric age group, the operation consists of ligation of patent processus vaginalis via inguinal incision and the distal stump is left open, whereas in hydrocele of the cord the cystic mass is excised or unroofed [57, 62, 64] (LE: 4; GR: C). In expert hands, the incidence of testicular damage during hydrocele or inguinal hernia repair is very low (0.3%) (LE: 3; GR: B). Sclerosing agents should not be used because of the risk of chemical peritonitis in communicating processus vaginalis peritonei [62, 64] (LE: 4; GR: C). The scrotal approach (Lord or Jaboulay technique) is used in the treatment of a secondary non-communicating hydrocele.

### 3C.4 Recommendations for the management of hydrocele

| Recommendations   | LE | GR |
|---|----|----|
| In the majority of infants, surgical treatment of hydrocele is not indicated within the first 12-24 months due to the tendency for spontaneous resolution. Little risk is taken by initial observation because progression to hernia is rare. | 2a | B  |
| Early surgery is indicated if there is suspicion of a concomitant inguinal hernia or underlying testicular pathology.   | 2b | B  |
| In case of doubts about the character of an intrascrotal mass, scrotal ultrasound should be performed.  | 4  | C  |
| In the paediatric age group, an operation would generally involve ligation of the patent processus vaginalis via inguinal incision. Sclerosing agents should not be used because of the risk for chemical peritonitis.                        | 4  | C  |

## 3D ACUTE SCROTUM IN CHILDREN

### 3D.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Acute scrotum is a paediatric urological emergency, most commonly caused by torsion of the testis or appendix testis, or epididymitis/epididymo-orchitis [69-74]. Other causes of acute scrotal pain are idiopathic scrotal oedema, mumps orchitis, varicocele, scrotal haematoma, incarcerated hernia, appendicitis or systemic disease (e.g. Henoch-Schönlein purpura) [75-87]. Trauma can also be a cause of acute scrotum as it can relate to post traumatic haematomas, testicular contusion, rupture dislocation or torsion [88-93]. Scrotal fat necrosis has also been reported to be an uncommon cause of mild-to-moderate scrotal pain in prepubertal overweight boys after exposure to cold [94].

Torsion of the testis occurs most often in the neonatal period and around puberty, whereas torsion of the appendix testes occurs over a wider age range. Acute epididymitis affects two age groups: < 1 year and 12-15 years [72, 95, 96]. Acute epididymitis is found most often (37-64.6%) in boys with acute scrotum [69, 70, 73, 74]. One study predicted the annual incidence of epididymitis around 1.2 per 1,000 children [97].

Perinatal torsion of the testis most often occurs prenatally. Perinatal torsion occurs after birth in 25% of the cases. Bilateral torsion comprises 11-21% of all perinatal cases [98]. Most cases are extravaginal in contrast to the usual intravaginal torsion, which occurs during puberty.

### 3D.2 Diagnostic evaluation

Patients usually present with scrotal pain, except in newborn torsion. The duration of symptoms is shorter in testicular torsion (69% present within 12 h) compared to torsion of the appendix testes (62%) and acute epididymitis (31%) [71, 72, 96].

In the early phase, location of the pain can lead to diagnosis. Patients with acute epididymitis experience a tender epididymis, whereas patients with testicular torsion are more likely to have a tender testicle, and patients with torsion of the appendix testis feel isolated tenderness of the superior pole of the testis [96].

An abnormal position of the testis is more frequent in testicular torsion than epididymitis [71]. Looking for absence of the cremasteric reflex is a simple method with 100% sensitivity and 66% specificity for testicular torsion [95, 99] (LE:3; GR: C).

Fever occurs often in epididymitis (11-19%). The classical sign of a "blue dot" was found only in 10-23% of patients with torsion of the appendix testis [70, 71, 95, 100].

In many cases, it is not easy to determine the cause of acute scrotum based on history and physical examination alone [69-74, 95, 100].

A positive urine culture is only found in a few patients with epididymitis [73, 95, 100, 101]. It should be remembered that a normal urinalysis does not exclude epididymitis. Similarly, an abnormal urinalysis does not exclude testicular torsion.

Doppler ultrasound is useful to evaluate acute scrotum, with 63.6-100% sensitivity and 97-100% specificity, and a positive predictive value of 100% and negative predictive value 97.5% [102-107] (LE: 3).

The use of Doppler ultrasound may reduce the number of patients with acute scrotum undergoing scrotal exploration, but it is operator-dependent and can be difficult to perform in prepubertal patients [104, 108]. It may also show a misleading arterial flow in the early phases of torsion and in partial or intermittent torsion. Of key importance, persistent arterial flow does not exclude testicular torsion. In a multicentre study of 208 boys with torsion of the testis, 24% had normal or increased testicular vascularisation [104]. Better results were reported using high-resolution ultrasonography (HRUS) for direct visualisation of the spermatic cord twist with a sensitivity of 97.3% and specificity of 99% [104, 109] (LE: 2; GR: C).

Scintigraphy and, more recently, dynamic contrast-enhanced subtraction MRI of the scrotum also provide a comparable sensitivity and specificity to ultrasound [110-113]. These investigations may be used when diagnosis is less likely and if torsion of the testis still cannot be excluded from history and physical examination. This should be done without inordinate delays for emergency intervention [100].

The diagnosis of acute epididymitis in boys is mainly based on clinical judgement and adjunctive investigation. However, it should be remembered that findings of secondary inflammatory changes in the absence of evidence of an extra-testicular nodule by Doppler ultrasound might suggest an erroneous diagnosis of epididymitis in children with torsion of appendix testes [114]. Prepubertal boys with acute epididymitis have an incidence of underlying urogenital anomalies of 25-27.6%. Complete urological evaluation in all children with acute epididymitis is still debatable [73, 95, 97].

Near-infrared spectroscopy has been used to diagnose testicular torsion in adults [115]. This non-invasive optical technique estimates the oxygenation of the spermatic cord tissue that is reduced in testicular torsion. However there is only one case report of its use in childhood in recent literature [116].



### **3D.3 Disease management**

#### **3D.3.1 Epididymitis**

In prepubertal boys, the aetiology is usually unclear, with an underlying pathology of about 25%. A urine culture is usually negative, and unlike in older boys, a sexually transmitted disease is very rare.

Antibiotic treatment, although often started, is not indicated in most cases unless urinalysis and urine culture show a bacterial infection [97, 117]. Epididymitis is usually self-limiting and with supportive therapy (i.e. minimal physical activity and analgesics) heals without any sequelae (LE: 3; GR: C). However, bacterial epididymitis can be complicated by abscess or necrotic testis and surgical exploration is required [118].

Torsion of the appendix testis can be managed non-operatively with the use of anti-inflammatory analgesics (LE: 4; GR: C). During the six-week follow-up, clinically and with US, no testicular atrophy was revealed. Surgical exploration is done in equivocal cases and in patients with persistent pain [107].

#### **3D.3.2 Testicular torsion**

Manual detorsion of the testis is done without anaesthesia. It should initially be done by outwards rotation of the testis unless the pain increases or if there is obvious resistance. Success is defined as the immediate relief of all symptoms and normal findings at physical examination [119] (LE: 3; GR: C). Doppler ultrasound may be used for guidance [120].

Bilateral orchiopexy is still required after successful detorsion. This should not be done as an elective procedure, but rather immediately following detorsion. One study reported residual torsion during exploration in 17 out of 53 patients, including 11 patients who had reported pain relief after manual detorsion [119, 121].

#### **3D.3.3 Surgical treatment**

Testicular torsion is an urgent condition, which requires prompt surgical treatment. The two most important determinants of early salvage rate of the testis are the time between onset of symptoms and detorsion, and the degree of cord twisting [122]. Severe testicular atrophy occurred after torsion for as little as 4 h when the turn was  $> 360^\circ$ . In cases of incomplete torsion ( $180-360^\circ$ ), with symptom duration up to 12 h, no atrophy was observed. However, an absent or severely atrophied testis was found in all cases of torsion  $> 360^\circ$  and symptom duration  $> 24$  h [123].

Early surgical intervention with detorsion (mean torsion time  $< 13$  h) was found to preserve fertility [124]. Urgent surgical exploration is mandatory in all cases of testicular torsion within 24 h of symptom onset.

In patients with testicular torsion  $> 24$  h, semi-elective exploration is necessary [122, 123] (LE: 3). There is still controversy on whether to carry out detorsion and to preserve the ipsilateral testis, or to perform an orchiectomy, in order to preserve contralateral function and fertility after testicular torsion of long duration ( $> 24$  h).

A recent study in humans found that sperm quality was preserved after orchiectomy and orchidopexy in comparison to normal control men, although orchiectomy resulted in better sperm morphology [125].

During exploration, fixation of the contralateral testis is also performed. Recurrence after orchidopexy is rare (4.5%) and may occur several years later. There is no common recommendation about the preferred type of fixation and suture material; however, many urologists currently use a Dartos pouch orchidopexy with non-absorbable suture material [126].

External cooling before exploration and several medical treatments seem effective in reducing ischaemia-reperfusion injury and preserving the viability of the torted and the contralateral testis [127-131].

### **3D.4 Follow-up**

Patients would need a follow-up mainly for fertility issues, hormonal consequences and cancer.

#### **3D.4.1 Fertility**

The results vary and are conflicting. In one study, unilateral torsion of the testis seriously intervened with subsequent spermatogenesis in about 50% of the patients and produced borderline impairment in another 20% [122]. Although, 30% of affected testicles with mumps orchitis show a degree of atrophy, long-term outcome in terms of fertility is not conclusive [132].

#### **3D.4.2 Subfertility**

Subfertility is found in 36-39% of patients after torsion. Semen analysis may be normal in only 5-50% in long-term follow-up [122]. Early surgical intervention (mean torsion time  $< 13$  h) with detorsion was found to preserve fertility, but a prolonged torsion period (mean 70 h) followed by orchiectomy jeopardised fertility [124].

Subfertility and infertility are consequences of direct injury to the testis after the torsion. This is

caused by the cut-off of blood supply, but also of the post-ischaemia-reperfusion injury that is caused after the detorsion when oxygen-derived free radicals are rapidly circulated within the testicular parenchyma [122].

### 3D.4.3 Androgen levels

Even though the levels of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinising hormone (LH) and testosterone are higher in patients after testicular torsion compared to normal controls, endocrine testicular function remains in the normal range after testicular torsion [125].

### 3D.4.4 Testicular cancer

There may be a 3.2-fold increased risk of developing a testis tumour 6-13 years after torsion. However, two of nine reported cases had torsion of a tumour-bearing testis and four had a tumour in the contralateral testis [122].

## 3D.5 Recommendations for the treatment of acute scrotum in children

| Recommendations   | LE | GR |
|---|----|----|
| Acute scrotum is a paediatric urological emergency and intervention should not be delayed.  |    |    |
| Neonates with acute scrotum, and bilateral cases, should be treated as surgical emergencies. In neonates, the contralateral scrotum should also be explored.  | 3  | C  |
| Doppler ultrasound is a highly effective imaging tool to evaluate acute scrotum and comparable to scintigraphy and dynamic contrast-enhanced subtraction MRI. |    |    |
| High-resolution ultrasonography is better for direct visualisation of spermatic cord twisting.  | 3  | C  |
| Torsion of the appendix testis can be managed conservatively but in equivocal cases and in patients with persistent pain, surgical exploration is indicated.  |    |    |
| Urgent surgical exploration is mandatory in all cases of testicular torsion within 24 h of symptom onset.   | 3  | C  |

*MRI = magnetic resonance imaging.*

## 3E HYPOSPADIAS

### 3E.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

#### 3E.1.1 Risk factors

Risk factors associated with hypospadias are likely to be genetic, placental and/or environmental [133] (LE: 2b). Interactions between genetic and environmental factors may help explain non-replication in genetic studies of hypospadias. Single nucleotide polymorphisms seemed to influence hypospadias risk only in exposed cases [134] (LE: 2b; GR: B).

- An additional member with hypospadias is found in 7% of families [135].
- Endocrine disorders can be detected in rare cases.
- Babies of young or old mothers and babies with a low birth weight have a higher risk of hypospadias [135].
- A significant increase in the incidence of hypospadias over the last 20 years suggests a role for environmental factors (hormonal disruptors and pesticides) [136-139]. Though this information has been questioned recently [140].
- The use of oral contraceptives prior to pregnancy has not been associated with an increased risk of hypospadias in the offspring [141] (LE: 2a; GR: B).

A Dutch case-control study confirmed that genetic predisposition possibly plays a role in anterior and middle hypospadias, in contrast, the posterior phenotype was more often associated with pregnancy-related factors, such as primiparity, preterm delivery, and being small for gestational age. Hormone-containing contraceptive use after conception increased the risk of middle and posterior hypospadias, while multiple pregnancies were associated with the posterior form in particular [142] (LE: 2a).

### 3E.2 Classification systems

Hypospadias are usually classified based on the anatomical location of the proximally displaced urethral orifice:

- Distal-anterior hypospadias (located on the glans or distal shaft of the penis and the most common type of hypospadias);
- Intermediate-middle (penile);

- Proximal-posterior (penoscrotal, scrotal, perineal).  
The pathology may be much more severe after skin release.

### 3E.3 Diagnostic evaluation

It is important that hypospadias patients are diagnosed at birth (except for the megameatus intact prepuce variant).

Diagnosis includes a description of the local findings:

- Position, shape and width of the orifice;
- Presence of atretic urethra and division of corpus spongiosum;
- Appearance of the preputial hood and scrotum;
- Size of the penis;
- Curvature of the penis on erection.

The diagnostic evaluation also includes an assessment of associated anomalies, which are:

- Cryptorchidism (in up to 10% of cases of hypospadias);
- Open processus vaginalis or inguinal hernia (in 9-15%).

Severe hypospadias with unilaterally or bilaterally impalpable testis, or with ambiguous genitalia, require a complete genetic and endocrine work-up immediately after birth to exclude disorders of sex development (DSD), especially congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

Urine trickling and ballooning of the urethra requires exclusion of meatal stenosis. The relationship between the severity of the hypospadias and the associated anomalies of the upper- or lower urinary tract were not confirmed in a systematic literature review [143] (LE: 3).

### 3E.4 Disease management

Differentiation between functionally necessary and aesthetically feasible operative procedures is important for therapeutic decision-making.

The functional indications for surgery are:

- Proximally located meatus;
- Ventrally deflected or spraying urinary stream;
- Meatal stenosis;
- Curved penis.

The cosmetic indications, which are strongly linked to the psychology of the parent or future patient's psychology, are:

- Abnormally located meatus;
- Cleft glans;
- Rotated penis with abnormal cutaneous raphe;
- Preputial hood;
- Penoscrotal transposition;
- Split scrotum.

As all surgical procedures carry the risk of complications, thorough pre-operative counselling of the parents is crucial.

The therapeutic objectives are to correct the penile curvature, to form a neo-urethra of an adequate size, to bring the neomeatus to the tip of the glans, if possible, and to achieve an overall acceptable cosmetic appearance of the boy's genitalia [136] (LE: 4; GR: C) (Figure 1).

The use of magnifying spectacles and fine synthetic absorbable suture materials (6/0-7/0) is required. As in any penile surgery, an exceptional prudence should be adopted with the use of cautery. Knowledge of a variety of surgical reconstructive techniques, wound care and post-operative treatment are essential for a satisfactory outcome. Pre-operative hormonal treatment with local or parenteral application of testosterone, dihydrotestosterone or beta-chorionic gonadotropin is usually limited to patients with proximal hypospadias, a small appearing penis, reduced glans circumference or reduced urethral plate [144]. The effect of preoperative hormonal stimulation on operative outcomes after hypospadias repair remains unclear according to systematic review [145, 146].

#### 3E.4.1 Age at surgery

The age at surgery for primary hypospadias repair is usually 6-18 (24) months [136] (LE: 4; GR: C). However, earlier repair between 4 and 6 months of age has been reported recently [147, 148] (LE: 3; GR: B). Age at surgery is not a risk factor for urethroplasty complication in prepubertal tubularised incised plate urethroplasty (TIP) repair [148] (LE: 2b).



#### **3E.4.2 Penile curvature**

If present, penile curvature is often released by degloving the penis (skin chordee) and by excision of the connective tissue of the genuine chordee on the ventral aspect of the penis in up to 70% [149]. The urethral plate has well vascularised connective tissue and does not cause curvature in most cases. The residual curvature is caused by corporeal disproportion and requires straightening of the penis, mostly using dorsal midline plication or orthoplasty or ventral corporotomies with or without grafting [150, 151] (LE: 2b; GR: B). No systematic review or meta-analyses related to this subject are currently available.

#### **3E.4.3 Preservation of the well-vascularised urethral plate**

The mainstay of hypospadias repair is preservation of the well-vascularised urethral plate and its use for urethral reconstruction has become standard practice in hypospadias repair [152]. Mobilisation of the corpus spongiosum/urethral plate and the bulbar urethra decreases the need for urethral plate transection [151] (LE: 2b; GR: B). Urethral plate elevation and urethral mobilization with TIP resulted in focal devascularization of the neourethra with symptomatic stricture development [153] (LE: 2b).

If the urethral plate is wide, it can be tubularised following the Thiersch-Duplay technique. If the plate is too narrow to be simply tubularised, it is recommended that a midline-relaxing incision of the plate, followed by reconstruction according to the Snodgrass-Orkiszewski technique, is performed in distal hypospadias, as well as in proximal hypospadias (though the complication rate is higher) [154-157].

The onlay technique is preferred in proximal hypospadias and if a plate is unhealthy or too narrow [149]. For distal forms of hypospadias, a range of other techniques are available (e.g. Mathieu, urethral advancement) [158] (LE: 2b; GR: B).

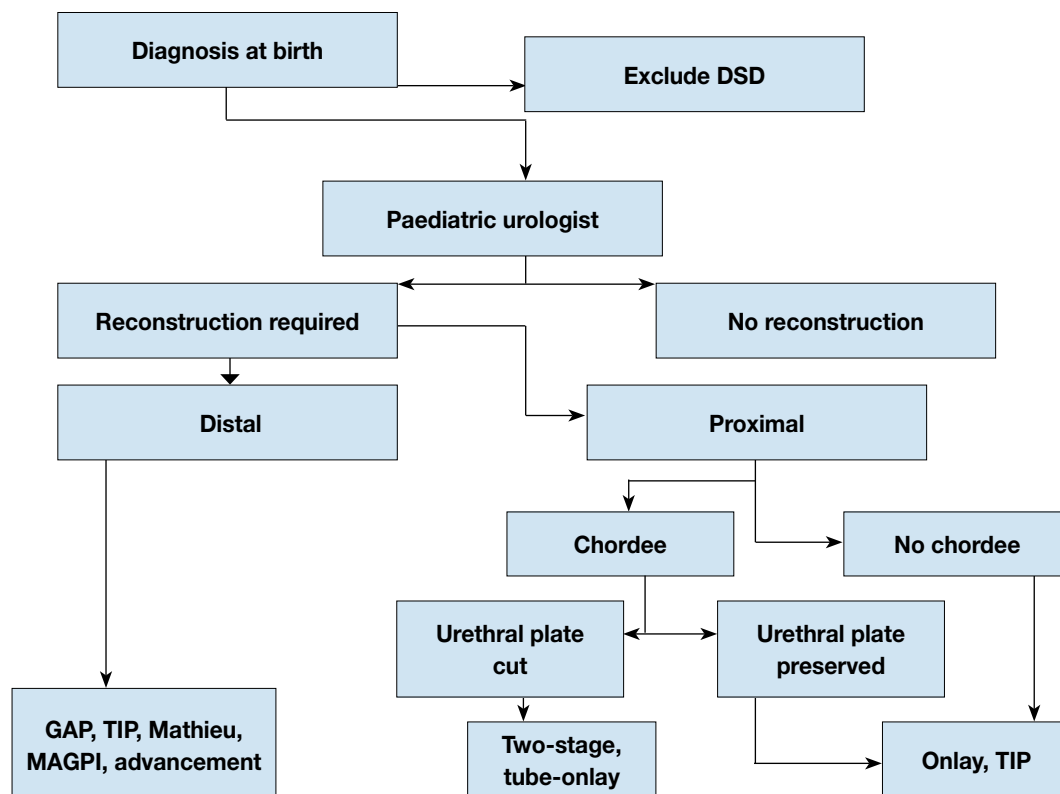
If the continuity of the urethral plate cannot be preserved, a modification of the tubularised flap, such as a tube-onlay, an inlay-onlay flap, or onlay flap on albuginea is used to prevent urethral stricture [159-161] (LE: 3). In this situation, as well as in severe scrotal or penoscrotal hypospadias, the Koyanagi technique or two-stage procedure may be preferable [162-164].

If preputial or penile skin is not available, or has signs of balanitis xerotica obliterans, a buccal mucosa graft is used in an onlay or two-stage repair [165, 166] (LE: 3; GR: C). The use of dorsal inlay skin grafts may allow an increased number of single-stage repairs to be performed [167].

#### **3E.4.4 Re-do hypospadias repairs**

For re-do hypospadias repairs, no definitive guidelines can be given. All the above-mentioned procedures are used in different ways and are often modified according to the individual needs of the patient.

**Figure 1: Algorithm for the management of hypospadias**



*DSD = disorders of sex development; GAP = glans approximation procedure; TIP = tubularised incised plate urethroplasty; MAGPI = meatal advancement and glanuloplasty incorporated.*

### 3E.4.5 Urethral reconstruction

Following formation of the neo-urethra, the procedure is completed by glansplasty and by reconstruction of the penile skin. If there is a shortage of skin covering, the preputial double-face technique or placement of the suture line into the scrotum may be used. In countries where circumcision is not routinely performed, preputial reconstruction can be considered. However, in the TIP repair, the parents should be advised that use of a preputial dartos flap reduces the fistula rate [154, 155] (LE: 2b; GR: B).

### 3E.4.6 Urine drainage and wound dressing

Urine is drained with a transurethral dripping stent, or with a suprapubic tube. Some surgeons use no drainage after distal hypospadias repair. Circular dressing with slight compression, as well as prophylactic antibiotics during surgery, are established procedures [168] (LE: 4; GR: C). Postoperative prophylaxis after hypospadias repair is controversial [169, 170] (LE: 2b).

A large variety of duration of stenting and dressing is described. No recommendation can be given due to the low level of evidence.

### 3E.4.7 Outcome

A literature review on distal TIP urethroplasty found significant clinical heterogeneity with some limitations to the comparability of the data; one should expect a predictable outcome with complication rates below 10% (fistula, meatal stenosis, dehiscence, recurrent ventral curvature, and haematoma) [171, 172]. A systematic review of the Mathieu and TIP repairs of distal hypospadias found similar incidence of fistula (3.4-3.6%), and higher incidence of meatal stenosis in TIP (3.0% versus 0.6% in Mathieu) after 6-12 months follow-up [173]. Another systematic review and meta-analysis found no difference in fistula, meatal stenosis or glans dehiscence, but better cosmesis in TIP repair [174].

The complication rate of TIP and onlay repairs of primary severe hypospadias is similar, 24% and 27%, respectively. It is higher in free graft and in preputial island tube urethroplasty [149]. Staged buccal mucosa graft requires a redo grafting in 13% of patients, after the second stage more than one third of patients have complications, mostly with some degree of graft fibrosis [175]. Low surgeon volume independently increases the risk of fistula, stricture or diverticulum repair [172] (LE: 3).

Ventral corporeal grafting for severe penile curvature gives good long-term results and safety for erectile function is reported [176] (LE: 2b).

### 3E.5 Follow-up

Long-term follow-up is necessary up to adolescence to detect urethral stricture, voiding dysfunctions and recurrent penile curvature. Up to half of complications requiring reoperation present after the first year postoperatively [177] (LE: 2b).

Overall, between 7% and 67% of patients operated on for hypospadias end up with an obstructive flow (24.6% in TIP). These children should be followed until adulthood to clarify the clinical significance. Spontaneous improvement has been described [178, 179] (LE: 2a). Urine flow is significantly lower in patients after hypospadias surgery, especially in those who had corrected chordee, than in controls, but without significant association with lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) [180] (LE: 2a).

Objective scoring systems have been developed in order to evaluate the results of hypospadias surgery (HOSE) [181] (LE: 2b) and cosmetic appearance (HOPE) [182] (LE: 2a). The Pediatric Penile Perception Score is a reliable instrument to assess penile self-perception in children after hypospadias repair, and for appraisal of the surgical result by parents and uninvolved urologists [183] (LE: 2a).

Adolescents and adults, who have undergone hypospadias repair in childhood, have a slightly higher rate of dissatisfaction with penile size, especially proximal hypospadias patients, but their sexual behaviour is not different from that of control subjects [184, 185] (LE: 2a-b).

### 3E.6 Conclusions and recommendations for the management of hypospadias

| Conclusions   | LE |
|---|----|
| The age at surgery for primary hypospadias repair is usually 6-18 (24) months.  | 4  |
| The therapeutic objectives are to correct the penile curvature, to form a neo-urethra of an adequate size, to bring the neomeatus to the tip of the glans, if possible, and to achieve an overall acceptable cosmetic appearance. | 4  |
| The complication rate is about 10% in distal and 25% in proximal hypospadias repairs.   | 3  |
| Sexual functions are usually well preserved.  | 2b |

| Recommendations   | GR |
|---|----|
| At birth, isolated hypospadias has to be differentiated from disorders of sex development which are mostly associated with cryptorchidism or micropenis.  | A  |
| Differentiation between functionally necessary (functional indications) and aesthetically feasible operative procedures (psychological, cosmetic indications) is important for therapeutic decision-making. As all surgical procedures carry the risk of complications, thorough pre-operative counselling of the parents is crucial. | A  |
| Original and modified tubularised incised plate urethroplasty has become the most frequent type of surgery for distal hypospadias; the onlay urethroplasty or two-stage procedures are used in more severe hypospadias. A treatment algorithm is presented (Figure 1).  | B  |
| Long-term follow-up is necessary up to adolescence to detect urethral stricture, voiding dysfunctions and recurrent penile curvature. New objective scoring systems help surgeons evaluate the functional and cosmetic outcome.   | A  |

## 3F CONGENITAL PENILE CURVATURE

### 3F.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Penile curvature may be ventral, dorsal or lateral. Most ventral curvatures are associated with hypospadias due to chordee or ventral dysplasia of cavernous bodies [186]. Similarly, dorsal curvature is mostly associated with exstrophy/epispadias complex [187]. Isolated curvature is not frequent with an incidence of 0.6 % [188] (LE: 2) and is caused by asymmetry of the cavernous bodies [186, 189].

Curvature > 30° is considered clinically significant; curvature > 60° may interfere with satisfactory sexual intercourse in adulthood [190] (LE: 4).

### 3F.2 Diagnostic evaluation

Diagnosis is made during hypospadias or epispadias repair using an artificial erection [191]. The isolated anomaly is usually not recognised until later in childhood because the appearance of the penis is normal. The curvature is only observed during erections.

### 3F.3 Disease management

The treatment is surgical. An artificial erection is used to determine the degree of curvature and to check symmetry after the repair [191].

In hypospadias, chordee related to the tethering of the ventral skin and to the spongiosal pillars is first released. Only in a few cases, the penile curvature is caused by a short urethral plate, which should be cut. To repair the corporeal angulation in the isolated curvature, or curvature associated with hypospadias, different techniques of plication of corpora cavernosa (orthoplasty) are used [190].

In exstrophy/epispadias complex, a combination of complete release of the urethral body from the corpora and a different kind of corporoplasty with or without corporotomy is usually necessary to achieve a straight penis [192, 193].

## 3G VARICOCELE IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

### 3G.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Varicocele is defined as an abnormal dilatation of testicular veins in the pampiniformis plexus caused by venous reflux. It is unusual in boys under 10 years of age and becomes more frequent at the beginning of puberty. It is found in 14-20% of adolescents, with a similar incidence during adulthood. It appears mostly on the left side (78-93% of cases). Right-sided varicoceles are less common; they are usually noted only when bilateral varicoceles are present and seldom occur as an isolated finding [194-196].

Varicocele develops during accelerated body growth and increased blood flow to the testes, by a mechanism that is not clearly understood. Genetic factors may be present. An anatomic abnormality leading to impaired venous drainage is expressed by the considerable prevalence of the left side condition where the internal spermatic vein drains into the renal vein. Varicocele can induce apoptotic pathways because of heat stress, androgen deprivation and accumulation of toxic materials. Severe damage is found in 20% of adolescents affected, with abnormal findings in 46% of affected adolescents. Histological findings are similar in children or adolescents and in infertile men. In 70% of patients with grade II and III varicocele, left testicular volume loss was found.

Several authors reported on reversal of testicular growth after varicocelectomy in adolescents [197, 198]. The average proportion of catch-up growth of 76.4% (range: 52.6-93.8%) has been found according to a recent meta-analysis [199] (LE: 2a). However, this may partly be attributable to testicular oedema associated with the division of lymphatic vessels [200] (LE: 2).

In about 20% of adolescents with varicocele, fertility problems will arise [201]. The adverse influence of varicocele increases with time. Improvement in sperm parameters has been demonstrated after adolescent varicocelectomy [202-204] (LE: 1).

### 3G.2 Classification systems

Varicocele is classified into 3 grades:

- Grade I - Valsalva positive (palpable at Valsalva manoeuvre only);
- Grade II - palpable (palpable without the Valsalva manoeuvre);
- Grade III - visible (visible at distance) [205].

### 3G.3 Diagnostic evaluation

Varicocele is mostly asymptomatic, rarely causing pain at this age. It may be noticed by the patient or parents, or discovered by the paediatrician at a routine visit. The diagnosis depends upon the clinical finding of a collection of dilated and tortuous veins in the upright posture; the veins are more pronounced when the patient performs the Valsalva manoeuvre. The size of both testicles should be evaluated during palpation to detect a smaller testis.

Venous reflux into the plexus pampiniformis is diagnosed using Doppler colour flow mapping in the supine and upright position [206]. Venous reflux detected on ultrasound only is classified as subclinical varicocele. To discriminate testicular hypoplasia, the testicular volume is measured by ultrasound examination or by orchidometer. In adolescents, a testis that is smaller by > 2 mL or 20% compared to the other testis is considered to be hypoplastic [207] (LE: 2).

Extension of Wilms tumour into the renal vein and inferior vena cava can cause a secondary varicocele. A renal ultrasound should be routinely added in prepubertal boys and in isolated right varicocele (LE: 4).

In order to assess testicular injury in adolescents with varicocele, supranormal FSH and LH responses to the luteinising hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) stimulation test are considered reliable, because histopathological testicular changes have been found in these patients [203, 208].

### 3G.4 Disease management

There is no evidence that treatment of varicocele at paediatric age will offer a better andrological outcome than an operation performed later. Beneficial effect of pubertal screening and treatment for varicocele regarding chance of paternity has been questioned according to a corresponding questionnaire in adult patients [209] (LE: 4).

The recommended indication criteria for varicocelectomy in children and adolescents are [195]:

- varicocele associated with a small testis;
- additional testicular condition affecting fertility;
- bilateral palpable varicocele;
- pathological sperm quality (in older adolescents);
- symptomatic varicocele.

Testicular (left + right) volume loss in comparison with normal testes is a promising indication criterion, once the normal values are available [210]. Repair of a large varicocele, causing physical or psychological discomfort, may also be considered. Other varicoceles should be followed-up until a reliable sperm analysis can be performed (LE: 4).

Surgical intervention is based on ligation or occlusion of the internal spermatic veins. Ligation is performed at different levels:

- inguinal (or subinguinal) microsurgical ligation;
- suprainguinal ligation, using open or laparoscopic techniques [211-214].

The advantage of the former is the lower invasiveness of the procedure, while the advantage of the latter is a considerably lower number of veins to be ligated and safety of the incidental division of the internal spermatic at the suprainguinal level.

For surgical ligation, some form of optical magnification (microscopic or laparoscopic) should be used because the internal spermatic artery is 0.5 mm in diameter at the level of the internal ring [211, 213]. The recurrence rate is usually < 10%.

Lymphatic-sparing varicocelectomy is preferred to prevent hydrocele formation and testicular hypertrophy development and to achieve a better testicular function according to the LHRH stimulation test [200, 211, 212, 215] (LE: 2). The methods of choice are subinguinal or inguinal microsurgical (microscopic) repairs, or suprainguinal open or laparoscopic lymphatic-sparing repairs [211, 213, 216, 217]. Angiographic occlusion of the internal spermatic veins also meets these requirements. It is based on retrograde or antegrade sclerotisation of the internal spermatic veins [218, 219]. However, although this method is less invasive and may not require general anaesthesia, it is associated with radiation burden, which is less controllable in the antegrade technique. Available data on failure rates combine anatomical inaccessibility and recurrence [195, 218, 219] (LE: 2).

### 3G.5 Conclusions and recommendations

Varicocele becomes more frequent at the beginning of puberty and is found in 14-20% of adolescents. Fertility problems are expected in 20% of them.

Varicocele is examined in the standing position and classified into three grades. Venous reflux is diagnosed using Doppler colour flow mapping in the supine and upright position. In up to 70% of patients with grade II and III varicocele, left testicular volume loss is reported; in late adolescence the contralateral right testis may also become smaller.

| Recommendations  | LE | GR |
|--|----|----|
| There is no evidence that treatment of varicocele at paediatric age will offer a better andrological outcome than an operation performed later.  |    |    |
| Surgery is recommended for:<br>- varicocele associated with a small testis;<br>- additional testicular condition affecting fertility;<br>- pathological sperm quality (in older adolescents);<br>- bilateral palpable varicocele;<br>- symptomatic varicocele. | 2  | B  |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| For surgical ligation, some form of optical magnification (microscopic or laparoscopic magnification) should be used. | 2 | B |
| Lymphatic-sparing varicocelectomy is preferred to prevent hydrocele formation and testicular hypertrophy.             | 2 | A |

## 3H URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS IN CHILDREN

### 3H.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) represent the most common bacterial infection in children [220-222]. In neonates, the symptoms differ in many aspects from those in infants and children. The prevalence is higher; there is a male predominance; infections not caused by *Escherichia coli* are more frequent; and there is a higher risk of urosepsis [223-226].

The incidence varies depending on age and sex. One meta-analysis showed in the first three months of life UTIs were present in 7.5% of girls, 2.4% (CI: 1.4-3.5) of circumcised boys, and 20.1% (CI: 16.8-23.4) of uncircumcised boys, who presented with fever [224]. In the first year of life, UTIs are more common in boys (3.7%) than girls (2%). Later, the incidence of UTIs changes to ~3% in prepubertal girls and 1% in prepubertal boys [224-227].

*E. coli* is found in ~75% of UTIs and is more frequent in community-acquired than nosocomial. In the latter, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Enterobacter spp.*, *Enterococcus spp.*, *Pseudomonas spp.* and *Candida spp.* are more frequent than in community-acquired UTIs. Neonatal UTI is frequently complicated by bacteraemia. In a retrospective study, 12.4% of blood cultures from neonates admitted for UTI were positive for bacteraemia [228], however, it is less frequent in community-acquired than in nosocomial UTI [228, 229].

### 3H.2 Classification systems

There are five widely used classification systems according to the site, episode, severity, symptoms and complicating factors. For acute treatment, site and severity are most important.

#### 3H.2.1 Classification according to site

Lower urinary tract (cystitis) is an inflammatory condition of the urinary bladder mucosa with general signs and symptoms including infection, dysuria, frequency, urgency, malodorous urine, enuresis, haematuria, and suprapubic pain.

Upper urinary tract (pyelonephritis) is a diffuse pyogenic infection of the renal pelvis and parenchyma. The onset of pyelonephritis is generally abrupt. Clinical signs and symptoms include fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), chills, costovertebral angle or flank pain, and tenderness. Older children may report cystitis symptoms along with fever/flank pain. Infants and children may have non-specific signs such as poor appetite, failure to thrive, lethargy, irritability, vomiting or diarrhoea.

#### 3H.2.2 Classification according to episode [230]

The first UTI may be a sign of anatomical anomalies that may predispose to complications of UTI and potential renal damage [231]. Anatomical evaluation is recommended (see below). Recurrent infection can be divided into unresolved and persistent infection.

In unresolved infection, initial therapy is inadequate for elimination of bacterial growth in the urinary tract (inadequate therapy, inadequate antimicrobial urinary concentration [poor renal concentration/gastrointestinal malabsorption], and infection involving multiple organisms with differing antimicrobial susceptibilities).

Persistent infection is caused by re-emergence of bacteria from a site within the urinary tract coming from a nidus for persistent infection that cannot be eradicated (e.g. infected stones, non-functioning or poorly functioning kidneys/renal segments, ureteral stumps after nephrectomy, necrotic papillae in papillary necrosis, urachal cyst, urethral diverticulum, periurethral gland, vesicointestinal, rectourethral or vesicovaginal fistulas). The same pathogen is identified in recurrent infections, but episodes of sterile urine may occur during and shortly following antimicrobial treatment.

In reinfection, each episode can be caused by a variety of new infecting organisms, in contrast to bacterial persistence in which the same infecting organism is always isolated. However, the most common general pathogenic species is *E. coli*, which occurs in many different serotypes. Therefore, recurrent *E. coli* UTI does not equate to infection with the same organism.

### **3H.2.3 Classification according to severity**

In simple UTI, children may have only mild pyrexia; are able to take fluids and oral medication; are only slightly or not dehydrated; and have a good expected level of compliance. When a low level of compliance is expected, such children should be managed as those with severe UTI.

In severe UTI, infection is related to the presence of fever of > 39°C, the feeling of being ill, persistent vomiting, and moderate or severe dehydration.

### **3H.2.4 Classification according to symptoms**

Asymptomatic bacteriuria indicates attenuation of uropathogenic bacteria by the host, or colonisation of the bladder by non-virulent bacteria that are incapable of activating a symptomatic response (no leukocyturia, no symptoms). Asymptomatic UTI includes leukocyturia but no other symptoms.

A symptomatic UTI, includes irritative voiding symptoms, suprapubic pain (cystitis), fever and malaise (pyelonephritis). Cystitis may represent early recognition of an infection destined to become pyelonephritis, or bacterial growth controlled by a balance of virulence and host response.

### **3H.2.5 Classification according to complicating factors [232]**

In uncomplicated UTI, infection occurs in a patient with a morphologically and functionally normal upper and lower urinary tract, normal renal function and competent immune system. This category includes mostly isolated or recurrent bacterial cystitis and is usually associated with a narrow spectrum of infecting pathogens that are easily eradicated by a short course of oral antimicrobial agents. Patients can be managed on an outpatient basis, with an emphasis on documenting resolution of their bacteriuria, followed by elective evaluation for potential anatomical or functional abnormalities of the urinary tract.

All neonates, most patients with clinical evidence of pyelonephritis, and all children with known mechanical or functional obstructions of the urinary tract, are considered to have complicated UTI. Mechanical obstruction is commonly due to the presence of posterior urethral valves, strictures or stones, independent of their location. Functional obstruction often results from LUT dysfunction (LUTD) of either neurogenic or non-neurogenic origin and dilating vesicoureteral reflux. Patients with complicated UTI require hospitalisation and parenteral antibiotics. Prompt anatomical evaluation of the urinary tract is critical to exclude the presence of significant abnormalities [233]. If mechanical or functional abnormalities are present, adequate drainage of the infected urinary tract is necessary.

## **3H.3 Diagnostic evaluation**

### **3H.3.1 Medical history**

Medical history includes the question of a primary (first) or secondary (recurring) infection; possible malformations of the urinary tract (e.g. pre- or postnatal ultrasound screening); prior operation; family history; and whether there is constipation or presence of LUTS.

### **3H.3.2 Clinical signs and symptoms**

Neonates with pyelonephritis or urosepsis can present with non-specific symptoms (failure to thrive, jaundice, hyperexcitability and without fever). UTI is the cause of fever in 4.1-7.5% of children who present to a paediatric clinic [234-236]. Septic shock is unusual, even with very high fever. Signs of a UTI may be vague and unspecific in small children, but later on, when they are > 2 years old, frequent voiding, dysuria and suprapubic, abdominal or lumbar pain can be detected.

### **3H.3.3 Physical examination**

Physical examination includes a general examination of the throat, lymph nodes, abdomen (constipation, palpable and painful kidney, or palpable bladder), flank, the back (stigmata of spina bifida or sacral agenesis), genitalia (phimosis, labial adhesion, vulvitis, epididymo-orchitis), and temperature.

### **3H.3.4 Urine sampling, analysis and culture**

Urine sampling has to be performed before any antimicrobial agent is administered. The technique for obtaining urine for urinalysis as well as culture affects the rate of contamination, which influences interpretation of the results. Especially in early infancy it can be challenging and depends on the mode of urine sampling [237].

#### **3H.3.4.1 Urine sampling**

Urine must be collected under defined conditions and investigated as soon as possible to confirm or exclude UTI, especially in children with fever.

In neonates, infants and non-toilet-trained children, there are four main methods with varying contamination rates and invasiveness to obtain urine in this age group:



(1) Plastic bag attached to the cleaned genitalia: This technique is most often used in daily practice. It is helpful when the culture results are negative. Also, if the dipstick is negative for both leukocyte esterase and nitrite, or microscopic analysis is negative for both pyuria and bacteriuria, UTI can be excluded without the need for confirmatory culture [238]. However, if the genitalia are not cleaned and culture is delayed, a high incidence of false-positive results (85-99%) can be found [239, 240].

(2) Clean-catch urine collection: The infant is placed in the lap of a parent or member of the nursing staff, who holds a sterile foil bowl underneath the infant's genitalia. The infant is offered oral fluids and urine collection is awaited [241]. This is time consuming and requires proper instruction of the parents. There seems to be a good correlation between the results of urine culture obtained by this method and suprapubic aspiration (SPA), with a false-positive rate of 5% and false-negative rate of 12% [241, 242]; however the contamination rate is higher compared to SPA [243].

(3) Bladder catheterisation: In female infants and also in neonates, this technique may be an alternative to SPA, however with a higher contamination rate [244]. In a prospective study using bladder catheterisation in febrile children aged  $\leq 36$  months, contamination was defined by multiple pathogens, non-pathogens, or colony counts  $< 10,000$  cfu/mL. True UTI was found in 10% of children and 14% of the cultures were contaminated. Univariate analysis of potential predictors identified age  $< 6$  months, difficult catheterisation, and uncircumcised boys. In children  $\leq 6$  months and uncircumcised boys a new, sterile catheter with each repeated attempt at catheterisation may lead to less contamination [245] otherwise SPA should be the method of choice.

(4) Suprapubic bladder aspiration: This is the most sensitive method to obtain an uncontaminated urine sample in this age group [245-247]. Using ultrasound to assess bladder filling, simplifies SPA and improves the diagnostic yield of obtaining a urine specimen from 60% to  $\sim 97\%$  [246, 247]. Complications are rare and have been reported in only 0.22% of cases, ranging from transient haematuria to bowel perforation [248]. However, bladder puncture causes more pain than catheterisation in infants  $< 2$  months old [249].

In older, toilet-trained, children who can void on command, after carefully retracting the foreskin and cleaning the glans penis in boys and spreading the labia and cleaning the periurethral area in girls, the use of clean catch, especially midstream urine, could be an acceptable technique for obtaining urine. After cleaning the urethral meatus and perineum with gauze and liquid soap twice, the risk of contamination was reduced from 23.9% (41/171) to 7.8% (14/171) in a randomised trial [250].

If the clinical situation necessitates, and for differential diagnosis of sepsis, it is most appropriate to obtain an adequate urine sample by catheterisation or SPA [242]. In infants, a bag can only be used if the dipstick is negative, otherwise the urine should be obtained through catheterisation or SPA. This is also recommended in children, who are severely ill and a UTI needs to be excluded or confirmed. Blood sampling is dependent on the clinical situation.

#### 3H.3.4.2 Urinalysis

There are three methods that are commonly used for urinalysis:

(1) Dipsticks: These are appealing because they provide rapid results, do not require microscopy, and are ready to use. Leukocyte esterase (as a surrogate marker for pyuria) and nitrite (which is converted from dietary nitrates by most Gram-negative enteric bacteria in the urine) are the most frequent markers, and are usually combined in a dipstick test. The conversion of dietary nitrates to nitrites by bacteria takes approximately 4 h in the bladder [242, 251]. However, nitrite is not a very sensitive marker for infants, who empty their bladder frequently, and not all urinary pathogens reduce nitrate to nitrite. The test is helpful when the result is positive, because it is highly specific (i.e. there are few false-positive results) [242, 252].

**Table 1: Sensitivity and specificity of component of urinalysis, alone and in combination [242]\***

| Test   | Sensitivity (Range), % | Specificity (Range), % |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| Leukocyte esterase test                                      | 83 (67-94)             | 78 (64-92)             |
| Nitrite test   | 53 (15-82)             | 98 (90-100)            |
| Leukocyte esterase or nitrite test positive                  | 93 (90-100)            | 72 (58-91)             |
| Microscopy, white blood cells                                | 73 (32-100)            | 81 (45-98)             |
| Microscopy, bacteria   | 81 (16-99)             | 83 (11-100)            |
| Leucocyte esterase test, nitrite test or microscopy positive | 99.8 (99-100)          | 70 (60-92)             |

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(2) Microscopy: This is the standard method of assessing pyuria after centrifugation of the urine with a threshold of 5 white blood cells (WBCs) per high-power field (25 WBC/ $\mu$ L) [248]. In uncentrifuged urine,  $\geq 10$  WBC/ $\mu$ L has been demonstrated to be sensitive for UTI [253] and this could perform well in clinical situations [254]. However, this is rarely done in an outpatient setting.

(3) Flow imaging analysis technology: This is being used increasingly to classify particles in uncentrifuged urine specimens [255]. The numbers of WBCs, squamous epithelial cells and red cells correlate well with those found by manual methods [242].

#### 3H.3.4.3 Urine culture

After negative results for dipstick, microscopic or automated urinalysis, urine culture is generally not necessary, especially if there is an alternative source of fever. If the dipstick result is positive, confirmation by urine culture is strongly recommended.

It is unclear what represents a significant UTI. In severe UTI,  $> 10^5$  cfu/mL can be expected. However, the count can vary and be related to the method of specimen collection, diuresis, and time and temperature of storage until cultivation occurs [226]. The classical definition of  $> 10^5$  cfu/mL of voided urine is still used to define a significant UTI [256, 257]. The recent American Academy of Pediatric Guidelines on Urinary tract infection suggest that the diagnosis should be on the basis of the presence of both pyuria and at least 50,000 cfu. However, some studies have shown that, in voided specimens,  $\leq 10^4$  organisms may indicate a significant UTI [258, 259]. If urine is obtained by catheterisation, 1,000-50,000 cfu/mL is considered to be positive, and any counts obtained after SPA should be considered as significant. Mixed cultures are indicative of contamination.

**Table 2: Criteria for UTI in children (adapted from the EAU Guidelines on Urological Infections [260])**

| Urine specimen from suprapubic bladder puncture       | Urine specimen from bladder catheterisation | Urine specimen from midstream void                                      |
|---|---|---|
| Any number of cfu/mL (at least 10 identical colonies) | $\geq 1,000$ -50,000 cfu/mL                 | $\geq 10^4$ cfu/mL with symptoms<br>$\geq 10^5$ cfu/mL without symptoms |

Pyuria without bacteriuria (sterile pyuria) may be due to incomplete antibiotic treatment, urolithiasis, or foreign bodies in the urinary tract, and infections caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

#### 3H.3.5 Imaging

##### 3H.3.5.1 Ultrasound

Renal and bladder ultrasonography within 24 hours is advised in infants with febrile UTI to exclude obstruction of the upper and lower urinary tract. Abnormal results are found in ~15% of cases, and 1-2% have abnormalities that require prompt action (e.g. additional evaluation, referral, or surgery) [242]. In other studies, renal ultrasound revealed abnormalities in up to 37% of cases, whereas voiding cystourethrography (VCUG) showed vesicoureteral reflux (VUR) in 27% of cases [229]. Dilating VUR is missed by ultrasound in around one third of cases [261]. Post-void residual urine should be measured in toilet-trained children to exclude voiding abnormalities as a cause of UTI.

##### 3H.3.5.2 Radionuclide scanning

Changes in dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA) clearance during acute UTI indicate pyelonephritis or parenchymal damage, correlated well with the presence of dilating reflux and the risk of further pyelonephritis episodes, breakthrough infections [262] and future renal scarring. DMSA scanning may be used as a first-line diagnostic procedure based on observations that dilating VUR occurs in almost all children with abnormal DMSA scan [261, 263]. These findings are different in neonates. After the first symptomatic, community-acquired UTI, the majority of renal units with VUR grade III or higher had normal early DMSA scanning [264]. See also Chapter 3M on VUR.

##### 3H.3.5.3 Voiding cystourethrography

The gold standard to exclude or confirm VUR is VCUG. Due to the risk of renal scarring, VCUG is recommended after the first episode of febrile UTI in boys and girls depending on sex, age and clinical presentation (Figure 1 and Table 7) (see Chapter 3M). The timing of VCUG does not influence the presence or severity of VUR [265, 266]. Performance of early VCUG in patients with proven sterile urine does not cause any significant morbidity [267]. Another option is doing DMSA first, followed by VCUG if there is renal cortical uptake deficiency after UTI (see Chapter 3M).

### 3H.3.6 **Bladder and bowel dysfunction**

Bladder and bowel dysfunction (BBD) are risk factors for which each child with UTI should be screened upon presentation. Normalisation of micturition disorders or bladder over-activity is important to lower the rate of UTI recurrence. If there are signs of BBD at infection-free intervals, further diagnosis and effective treatment are strongly recommended [268-271]. Treatment of constipation leads to a decrease in UTI recurrence [272-274]. Therefore, exclusion of BBD is strongly recommended in any child with febrile and/or recurrent UTI, and it should be treated if there is evidence of BBD.

## 3H.4 **Disease management**

### 3H.4.1 **Administration route**

The choice between oral and parenteral therapy should be based on patient age; clinical suspicion of urosepsis; illness severity; refusal of fluids, food and/or oral medication; vomiting; diarrhoea; non-compliance; and complicated pyelonephritis (e.g. urinary obstruction). As a result of the increased incidence of urosepsis and severe pyelonephritis in newborns and infants aged < 2 months, parenteral antibiotic therapy is recommended. Electrolyte disorders with life-threatening hyponatraemia and hyperkalaemia based on pseudohypoaldosteronism can occur in these cases [275, 276].

Parental combination treatment with ampicillin and an aminoglycoside (e.g. tobramycin or gentamicin) or respectively a third-generation cephalosporin achieves excellent therapeutic results (high efficacy of aminoglycosides, respectively cephalosporins against common uropathogens; enterococcus gap is closed with ampicillin). Compared to the division in two doses, a daily single dose of aminoglycosides is safe and effective [233, 277, 278].

The choice of agent is also based on local antimicrobial sensitivity patterns, and should later be adjusted according to sensitivity testing of the isolated uropathogen [242]. Especially in infancy, not all available antibiotics are approved by the national health authorities. In uncomplicated nephritis, both oral and parenteral treatment can be considered, because both are equally effective in children without urinary tract abnormalities. Some studies have demonstrated that once daily parenteral administration of gentamicin or ceftriaxone in a day treatment centre is safe, effective and cost-effective in children with UTI [277, 279, 280].

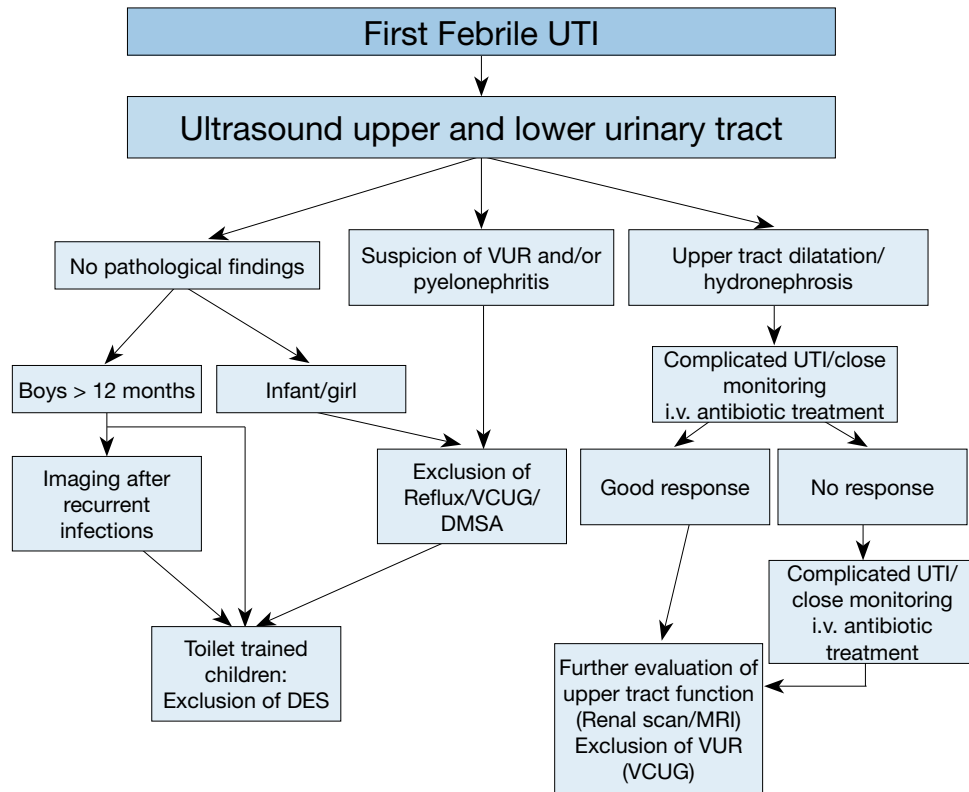
### 3H.4.2 **Duration of therapy**

Prompt adequate treatment of UTI can prevent the spread of infection and renal scarring. Outcomes of short courses (1-3 days) are inferior to those of 7-4-day courses [242]. In newborns and young infants with a febrile UTI, up to 20% may have a positive blood culture [228, 233]. In late infancy, there are no differences between strategies regarding the incidence of parenchymal scars, as diagnosed with DMSA scan [281]. Some recent studies using exclusively oral therapy with a third-generation cephalosporin (e.g. cefixime or ceftibuten) have demonstrated that this is equivalent to the usual 2-4 days intravenous therapy followed by oral treatment [278, 282-284]. Similar data have been shown for amoxicillin-clavulanate [285], however, these antibiotics are associated with increasing rates of resistance. If ambulatory therapy is chosen, adequate surveillance, medical supervision and, if necessary, adjustment of therapy must be guaranteed. In the initial phase of therapy, a close ambulant contact to the family is advised [286].

In complicated UTI, uropathogens other than *E. coli*, such as *Proteus mirabilis*, *Klebsiella spp.*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, enterococci and staphylococci, are more often to be anticipated [233]. Parenteral treatment with broad-spectrum antibiotics is preferred. A temporary urinary diversion (suprapubiccystostomy or percutaneous nephrostomy) might be required in case of failure of conservative treatment in obstructive uropathy.

Acute focal bacterial nephritis (lobar nephronia) is a localised bacterial infection of the kidney that presents as an inflammatory mass without abscess formation. This may represent a relatively early stage of renal abscess. For the majority of children, the pathogenesis is related to ascending infection due to preexisting uropathy, especially vesicorenal reflux or urinary obstruction (megaureter). Prolonged intravenous antibiotic treatment is sufficient in most cases [287], and intravenous and oral therapy tailored to the pathogen identified in culture is recommended [288].

**Figure 2: Algorithm for disease management of first febrile UTI**



DES = dysfunctional elimination syndrome; DMSA = technetium<sup>99</sup>-labelled dimercaptosuccinic acid; MRI = magnetic resonance imaging; UTI = urinary tract infection; VCUG = voiding cystourethrography; VUR = vesico-ureteral reflux.

### 3H.4.3 Antimicrobial agents

There is a great difference in the prevalence of antibiotic resistance of uropathogenic *E. coli* in different countries, with an alarmingly high resistance in Iran and Vietnam [289]. There are upcoming reports of UTIs caused by extended spectrum  $\beta$ -lactamase-producing enterobacteriaceae (ESBL) in children. In one study from Turkey, 49% of the children <1 year of age and 38% of those >1 year of age had ESBL-producing bacteria that were resistant to trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole in 83%, to nitrofurantoin in 18%, to quinolones in 47%, and to aminoglycosides in 40% [290]. Fortunately, the outcome appears to be the same as for children with non-ESBL producing bacteria, despite the fact that initial intravenous empirical antibiotic therapy was inappropriate in one study [291].

**Table 3: Frequently used antibacterial substances for the therapy of urinary tract infections in infants and children\***

| Chemotherapeutics                             | Daily dosage  | Application                                 | Comments  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Parenteral cephalosporins</b>              |   |   |   |
| Group 3a, e.g. cefotaxime                     | 100-200 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 3-6 g)  | i.v. in 2-3 D                               |   |
| Group 3b, e.g. ceftazidime                    | 100-150 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 2-6 g)  | i.v. in 2-3 D                               |   |
| Ceftriaxone                                   | 75 mg/kg  | i.v. in 1 D                                 |   |
| <b>Oral cephalosporins</b>                    |   |   |   |
| Group 3, e.g. ceftibuten                      | 9 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 0.4 g)  | p.o. in 1-2 D                               |   |
| Group 3, e.g. cefixime                        | 8-12 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 0.4 g)   | p.o. in 1-2 D                               |   |
| Group 2, e.g. cefpodoxime proxetil            | 8-10 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 0.4 g)   | p.o. in 2 D                                 |   |
| Group 2, e.g. cefuroximaxetil                 | 20-30 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 0.5-1 g)  | p.o. in 3 D                                 |   |
| Group 1, e.g. cefaclor                        | 50 -100 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 1.5-4 g)  | p.o. in 2-3 D                               |   |
| Trimethoprim or Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole | 5-6 mg/kg<br>5-6 mg/kg (TMP-Anteil)<br>(Adolesc.: 320 mg)   | p.o. in 2 D<br>p.o. in 2 D                  |   |
| Ampicillin                                    | 100-200 mg/kgKG<br>(Adolesc.: 3-6 g)  | i.v. in 3 D                                 | Ampicillin and Amoxicillin are not eligible for calculated therapy  |
| Amoxicillin                                   | 50-100 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 1.5-6 g)   | i.v. in 3-4 D<br>p.o. in 2-3 D <sup>1</sup> |   |
| Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid (parenteral)      | 60-100 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 3.6-6.6 g)   | p.o. in 2-3 D<br>i.v. in 3 D                |   |
| Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid (oral)            | 45-60 mg/kg<br>(Amoxicillinfraction)<br>(Adolesc.: 1500 + 375 mg)   | i.v. in 3 D<br>p.o. in 3 D                  |   |
| Piperacillin                                  | 300 mg/kg   | p.o.in 3 D<br>i.v. in 3-4 D                 |   |
| Tobramycin                                    | 5 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 3-5 mg/kg, max. 0,4 g)  | i.v. in 1 D                                 |   |
| Gentamicin                                    | 5 mg/kg<br>(Adolesc.: 3-5 mg/kg, max. 0,4g)   | i.v. in 1 D                                 |   |
| Ciprofloxacin                                 | Children and adolesc. (1-17 years of age): 20-30 mg/kg (max. D: 400 mg) (parenterally)<br><br>Children and adolesc. (1-17 years of age): 20-40 mg/kg (max. D 750 mg) (orally) | i.v. in 3 D<br><br>p.o. in 2 D              | Approved in most European countries as second- or third line medication for complicated UTIs, "reserve-antibiotic"! |
| Nitrofurantoin                                | 3-5 mg  | p.o. in 2 D                                 | Contraindicated in the case of renal insufficiency  |

\* Reproduced with permission from the International Consultation on Urological Diseases (ICUD), International Consultation on Urogenital Infections, 2009. Copyright © by the European Association of Urology [292]. Dosage for adolescents in paracentesis, if differing. <sup>1</sup> Infants 2 D, children 1-12 ys. 3 D.

**Table 4: Recommendations for calculated antibacterial therapy of pyelonephritis dependent on age and severity of the infection\***

| Diagnosis  | Proposal  | Application  | Duration of therapy                  | LE |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|----|
| Pyelonephritis during the first 0-6 months of life | Ceftazidime + Ampicillin <sup>1</sup> or Aminoglycoside + Ampicillin <sup>1</sup> | 3-7 days parenterally, for at least 2 days after defervescence, then oral therapy <sup>2</sup> In newborns: parenteral therapy for 7-14 days, then oral therapy <sup>2</sup> | 10 (-14) days Newborns<br>14-21 days | 4  |
| Uncomplicated pyelonephritis after 6 months of age | Cephalosporin group 3 <sup>2</sup>  | Orally (initially parenterally, if necessary)  | (7-)10 days                          | 1  |
| Complicated pyelonephritis/urosepsis (all ages)    | Ceftazidime + Ampicillin <sup>1</sup> or Aminoglycoside + Ampicillin <sup>1</sup> | 7 days parenterally, then oral therapy <sup>2</sup>  | 10-14 days                           | 4  |

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<sup>1</sup> after receipt of microbiological findings (pathogen, resistance) adaptation of therapy.

<sup>2</sup> i.v.: e.g. cefotaxime; orally: e.g. cefpodoxime proxetil, ceftibuten, cefixime.

**Table 5: Recommendations for antibacterial treatment in cystitis and cystourethritis**  
(Dosages for children up to 12 years of age)\*

| Chemotherapeutics                  | Daily dosage                           | Application   |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Oral cephalosporins                |  |               |
| Group 1, e.g. cefaclor             | 50 (-100) mg/kgbw                      | p.o. in 2-3 D |
| Group 1, e.g. cefalexin            | 50 mg/kgbw                             | p.o. in 3-4 D |
| Group 2, e.g. cefuroximaxetil      | 20-30 mg/kgbw                          | p.o. in 2 D   |
| Group 2, e.g. cefpodoxime proxetil | 8-10 mg/kgbw                           | p.o. in 2 D   |
| Group 3, e.g. ceftibuten           | 9 mg/kgbw                              | p.o. in 1 D   |
| Trimethoprim                       | 5-6 mg/kgbw                            | p.o. in 2 D   |
| Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole      | 5-6 mg/kgbw (TMP-fraction)             | p.o. in 3 D   |
| Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid        | 37.5-75 mg/kgbw (Amoxicillin-fraction) | p.o. in 3 D   |
| Nitrofurantoin                     | 3-5 mg/kgbw                            | p.o. in 2 D   |

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#### 3H.4.4 Chemoprophylaxis

Long-term antibacterial prophylaxis should be considered in cases of high susceptibility to UTI and risk of acquired renal damage. Some recently published prospective, randomised studies do not support the efficacy of antibacterial prophylaxis [293-296]. The Australian PRIVENT study demonstrated risk reduction using trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole in children from birth to 18 years of age who had at least one symptomatic UTI (19% of the placebo group and 13% of the antibiotic group) [282] (see also Chapter 3N on Urinary Stone Disease).

**Table 6: Drugs for antibacterial prophylaxis\***

| Substance                        | Prophylactic dosage (mg/kgbw/D) | Limitations in neonates and infants   |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Trimethoprim**                   | 1                               | Until 6 weeks of age                  |
| Trimethoprim<br>Sulfamethoxazole | 1-2<br>10-15                    | Not recommended under 2 months of age |
| Nitrofurantoin**                 | 1                               | Until 3 months of age                 |
| Cefaclor                         | 10                              | No age limitations                    |
| Cefixim                          | 2                               | Preterms and newborns                 |
| Ceftibuten                       | 2                               | ***                                   |
| Cefuroximaxetil                  | 5                               | ***                                   |

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\*\* Substances of first choice are nitrofurantoin and trimethoprim. In exceptional cases, oral cephalosporin can be used. \*\*\* In Germany, ceftibuten is not approved for infants < 3 months old.

### 3H.4.5 Monitoring of UTI

With successful treatment, urine usually becomes sterile after 24 h, and leukocyturia normally disappears within 3-4 days. Normalisation of body temperature can be expected within 24-48 h after the start of therapy in 90% of cases. In patients with prolonged fever and failing recovery, treatment-resistant uropathogens or the presence of congenital uropathy or acute urinary obstruction should be considered. Immediate ultrasound examination is recommended in these cases.

Procalcitonin (among other laboratory inflammatory parameters such as C-reactive protein and leukocyte count) can be used as reliable serum marker for early prediction of renal parenchymal inflammation with first febrile UTI [297]. In patients with febrile UTI, serum electrolytes and blood cell counts should be obtained.

### 3H.5 Conclusions and recommendations for UTI in children

| Conclusions   |
|---|
| Urinary tract infection represents the most common bacterial infection in children < 2 years of age. The incidence varies depending on age and sex.   |
| Classifications can be made according to the site, episode, severity, symptoms and complicating factors. For acute treatment, site and severity are most important.   |
| The number of colony forming units (cfu) in the urine culture can vary and is related to the method of specimen collection, diuresis, and time and temperature of storage until cultivation occurs. The classical definition of > 10 <sup>5</sup> cfu/mL of voided urine is still used to define a significant UTI. |

| Recommendations  | LE   | GR |   |
|--|--|----|---|
| Diagnosis includes medical history, clinical signs and symptoms (signs of a UTI may be vague and unspecific in small children) as well as a physical examination (including a general examination as well as assessing the genitalia). | 3  |    |   |
| Exclusion of bladder and assessing bowel dysfunction is strongly recommended in any child with febrile and/or recurrent UTI, and it should be treated if there is evidence of a dysfunctional elimination syndrome.                    | 3  | A  |   |
| Urine sampling   | Urine sampling with plastic bags is commonly used in daily practice. They are helpful only when the dipstick and/or the culture result are negative. There is a high risk of false-positive results. | 3  | B |
|  | Clean-catch of urine could be an acceptable technique for obtaining urine only in toilet-trained children.   | 2b | B |
|  | Bladder catheterisation is traumatic especially in boys. It may be an alternative to suprapubic bladder aspiration.  | 2b | B |
|  | Suprapubic bladder aspiration is the most sensitive method to obtain an uncontaminated urine sample in an infant.  | 2a | B |

|            |  |    |   |
|------------|--|----|---|
| Urinalysis | Dipsticks yield rapid results, but should be used with caution in infants who empty their bladder frequently as conversion of nitrates to nitrites by bacteria requires approximately 4 h.   | 2a | B |
|            | Microscopic investigation is the standard method of assessing pyuria after centrifugation, but it is rarely done in an outpatient setting.   | 2a | B |
|            | Flow imaging analysis is increasingly used to classify particles in uncentrifuged urine. The numbers of WBCs, squamous epithelial cells and red cells correlate well with manual methods.  | 3  | B |
| Treatment  | The choice between oral and parenteral therapy should be based on patient age; clinical suspicion of urosepsis; illness severity; refusal of fluids, food and/or oral medication; vomiting; diarrhoea; non-compliance; and complicated pyelonephritis (e.g., urinary obstruction). | 3  | B |
|            | Long-term antibacterial prophylaxis should be considered in cases of high susceptibility to UTI and risk of acquired renal damage.   |    |   |
|            | Parenteral therapy is advised when there is clinical suspicion of urosepsis; illness severity; refusal of fluids, food and/or oral medication; vomiting; diarrhoea; non-compliance; and complicated UTI.   | 2a | B |
|            | As a result of the increased incidence of urosepsis and severe pyelonephritis in newborns and infants aged < 2 months, parenteral antibiotic therapy is recommended. In an emergency setting, i.v. fluid replacement is necessary.   | 1b | B |
|            | Outcomes of short courses (1-3 days) are inferior to those of 7-4-day courses.   |    |   |
|            | Oral therapy with a third-generation cephalosporin (e.g., cefixime or ceftibuten) may be equivalent to the usual 2-4 days intravenous therapy followed by oral treatment.  |    |   |
|            | In complicated UTI, parenteral treatment with broad-spectrum antibiotics is indicated.   |    |   |
| Imaging    | Renal and bladder ultrasonography is strongly recommended in infants with febrile UTI to exclude obstruction of the upper and lower urinary tract.   | 3  | B |
|            | Changes in DMSA clearance during acute UTI indicate pyelonephritis or parenchymal damage. If it is positive, reflux may be present.  | 2b | B |
|            | VCUG is the gold standard to exclude or confirm VUR. Due to the risk of renal scarring, it is recommended after the first episode of febrile UTI in boys and girls. The timing of VCUG does not influence the presence or severity of VUR.   | 2a | B |

*DMSA = dimercaptasuccinic acid; UTI = urinary tract infections; VCUG = voiding cystourethrography; VUR = vesicoureteral reflux; WBC = white blood cell.*

## 31 DAYTIME LOWER URINARY TRACT CONDITIONS

### 31.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Following the newest terminology document by the International Children's Continence Society (ICCS), 'daytime lower urinary tract (LUT) conditions' is the new term used to group together functional incontinence problems in children [298]. After any possible underlying uropathy or neuropathy has been excluded, a problem of incontinence in children is grouped into the category of 'daytime LUT conditions'. Night-time wetting is known as 'enuresis'.

Due to the relationship between the bladder and bowel, concomitant bladder and bowel disturbances have been labeled as bladder bowel dysfunction (BBD). The use of the terms dysfunctional elimination syndrome (DES) or voiding dysfunction are discouraged. BBD is an umbrella term that can be sub-categorised into LUT dysfunction and bowel dysfunction.

Although exact data are unavailable, it is clear that the incidence of daytime LUT conditions is increasing. There exists a wide variation in reported prevalence ranging from 2% to 20% [299-303]. This wide variation might reflect the variation in definitions used. In recent studies, bowel dysfunction is observed in > 50 % of children suffering LUT dysfunction [304, 305].



## 31.2 Classification systems

Daytime LUT conditions are conditions that present with LUTS, including urge incontinence, weak stream, hesitancy, frequency and urinary tract infections without overt uropathy or neuropathy. Various functional disorders of the detrusor-sphincter complex may occur during the sophisticated early development of normal mechanisms of micturition control. LUT conditions are therefore thought to be the expression of incomplete or delayed maturation of the bladder sphincter complex. Normal daytime control of bladder function matures between 2 and 3 years of age, while night-time control is normally achieved between 3 and 7 years of age [299]. There are two main groups of LUTD, namely, filling-phase dysfunctions and voiding-phase dysfunctions.

### 31.2.1 Filling-phase dysfunctions

In filling-phase dysfunctions, the detrusor can be overactive, as in **overactive bladder (OAB)**, or underactive, as in **underactive (UAB)**. Some children habitually postpone micturition leading to **voiding postponement**.

### 31.2.2 Voiding-phase (emptying) dysfunctions

In voiding-phase (emptying) dysfunctions, interference with the sphincter and pelvic floor during detrusor contraction is the main dysfunction. The general terms for this condition are dysfunctional voiding or detrusor-sphincter discoordination. Different degrees of dysfunction are described, depending on the strength of interference with the sphincter and pelvic floor. Weak interference results in staccato voiding, while stronger interference results in interrupted voiding and straining, due to an inability to relax during voiding.

## 31.3 Diagnostic evaluation

A non-invasive screening, consisting of history-taking, clinical examination, uroflow, US and voiding diary, is essential to reach a diagnosis. The ICCS published a standardisation document for the diagnosis of LUTD [306]. In the paediatric age group, where the history is taken from both the parents and child together, a structured approach is recommended using a questionnaire. Many signs and symptoms related to voiding and wetting will be unknown to the parents and should be specifically requested, using the questionnaire as a checklist. A voiding diary is mandatory to determine the child's voiding frequency and voided volumes as well as the child's drinking habits. History-taking should also include assessment of bowel function. Some dysfunctional voiding scores have recently been developed and validated [307, 308]. For evaluation of bowel function in children, the Bristol Stool Scale is an easy-to-use tool [309, 310].

Upon clinical examination, genital inspection and observation of the lumbosacral spine and the lower extremities are necessary to exclude obvious uropathy and neuropathy. Uroflow with post-void residual evaluates the emptying ability, while an upper urinary tract ultrasound screens for secondary anatomical changes. A voiding diary provides information about storage function and incontinence frequency, while a pad test can help to quantify the urine loss.

In the case of resistance to initial treatment, or in the case of former failed treatment, re-evaluation is warranted and further video-urodynamic (VUD) studies may be considered. Sometimes, there are minor, underlying, urological or neurological problems, which can only be suspected using VUD. In these cases, structured psychological interviews to assess social stress should be added [311] (LE: 1b; GR: A).

In the case of anatomical problems, such as posterior urethral valve problems, syringocoeles, congenital obstructive posterior urethral membrane (COPUM) or Moormann's ring, it may be necessary to perform further cystoscopy with treatment. If neuropathic disease is suspected, MRI of the lumbosacral spine and medulla can help to exclude tethered cord, lipoma or other rare conditions.

## 31.4 Disease management

Treatment of LUTD consists of LUT rehabilitation, mostly referred to as urotherapy, meaning non-surgical, non-pharmacological, treatment of LUT function. It is a very broad therapy field, incorporating many treatments used by urotherapists and other healthcare professionals [312]. In case of comorbidity due to bowel problems it is advised to treat the bowel first, since bowel problems may sustain any bladder problems [309]. Urotherapy can be divided into standard therapy and specific interventions. It is strongly advised not to use terms such as "standard therapy" or "maintenance therapy" without defining the design of these treatments.

### 31.4.1 Standard therapy

Standard urotherapy is defined as non-surgical, non-pharmacological, treatment for LUTD. It can include the following components:

- Information and demystification, which includes explanation about normal LUT function and how a particular child deviates from normal function.
- Instruction about what to do about the problem, i.e. regular voiding habits, sound voiding posture, avoiding holding manoeuvres, etc.
- Lifestyle advice, regarding fluid intake, prevention of constipation, etc.



- Registration of symptoms and voiding habits using bladder diaries or frequency-volume charts.
- Support and encouragement via regular follow-up by the caregiver.

A success rate of 80% has been described for urotherapy programmes, independent of the components of the programme. However, the evidence level is low as most studies of urotherapy programmes are retrospective and non-controlled. A recently published multicentre controlled trial of cognitive treatment, placebo, oxybutynin, bladder and pelvic floor training did not report better results with oxybutynin and pelvic floor training compared to standard therapy [311] (LE: 1b; GR: A).

#### 31.4.2 Specific interventions

As well as urotherapy, there are some specific interventions, including physiotherapy (e.g. pelvic floor exercises), biofeedback, alarm therapy and neurostimulation. Although good results with these treatment modalities have been reported, the level of evidence remains low, since only a few RCTs were published [272, 312-317]. In some cases, pharmacotherapy may be added. Antispasmodics and anticholinergics have been shown to be effective, though the level of evidence level was low. Some studies on orthosympathomimetics have been published with a low level of evidence [318].

A few RCTs have been published, one on tolterodine showed safety but not efficacy [319], while another on propiverine showed both safety and efficacy [320] (LE: 1). The difference in results is probably due to study design. Despite the low level of evidence for the use of anticholinergics and antimuscarinics, their use is recommended (GR: B) because of the large number of studies reporting a positive effect on OAB symptoms.

Although  $\alpha$ -blocking agents are used occasionally, an RCT showed no benefit [321]. Botulinum toxin injection seems promising, but can only be used off-label [322]. Other new treatment modalities such as sacral nerve stimulation are described in case series only and there is no evidence for their usefulness. These new treatment modalities can only be recommended for standard therapy resistant cases [323].

### 31.5 Recommendations for the treatment of daytime lower urinary tract conditions

| Recommendations  | LE | GR |
|--|----|----|
| Daytime LUTD in children are common and a stepwise treatment approach is recommended, starting with the least invasive approach.   | 4  | B  |
| Initial management consists of urotherapy involving: non-invasive training and re-education, and non-invasive neurostimulation.  | 2  | B  |
| Pharmacotherapy (mainly antispasmodics and anticholinergics) would be the next step.   | 1  | C  |
| In case of therapy resistance, re-evaluation will be required. This may consist of videourodynamics and MRI of lumbosacral spine, guiding to off-label treatment (e.g. some of the non-licensed drugs in children, botulinum toxin injection and sacral nerve stimulation). Such treatment should only be offered in highly experienced centres. | 3  | C  |

LUTD = lower urinary tract dysfunction; MRI = magnetic resonance imaging.

## 3J MONOSYMPTOMATIC ENURESIS

### 3J.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Enuresis is synonymous to intermittent nocturnal incontinence. It is a frequent symptom in children. With a prevalence of 5-10% at 7 years of age, it is one of the most prevalent conditions in childhood. With a spontaneous yearly resolution rate of 15%, it is considered relatively benign [324, 325]. Nocturnal enuresis is considered primary when a child has not yet had a prolonged period of being dry. The term “secondary nocturnal enuresis” is used when a child or adult begins wetting again after having stayed dry.

However, 7 out of 100 children wetting the bed at age 7 will take this condition into adulthood. As it is a stressful condition, which puts a high psychological burden on children resulting in low self-esteem, treatment is advised from the age of 6-7 years onwards. Treatment is unnecessary in younger children in whom spontaneous cure is likely. The child’s mental status, family expectations, social issues and cultural background need to be considered before treatment can be started.

Genetically, enuresis is a complex and heterogeneous disorder. Loci have been described on chromosomes 12, 13 and 22 [326].

Three factors play an important pathophysiological role:

- high night-time urine output;

- night-time low bladder capacity or increased detrusor activity;
- arousal disorder.

Due to an imbalance between night-time urine output and night-time bladder capacity, the bladder can become easily full at night and the child will either wake up to empty the bladder or will void during sleep if there is a lack of arousal from sleep [324-326]. Recently, attention has been given to the chronobiology of micturition in which the existence of a circadian clock in kidney, brain and bladder [327] (LE: 1; GR: A).

### 3J.2 Classification systems

Enuresis is the condition describing the symptom of incontinence during night. Any wetting during sleep above the age of 5 years is enuresis. However, most importantly, there is a single symptom only. Children with other LUTS and enuresis are said to have non-monosymptomatic enuresis [324]. Thorough history-taking, excluding any other daytime symptoms, is mandatory before diagnosing monosymptomatic enuresis. Any associated urinary tract symptoms make the condition a 'daytime LUT condition' [326].

The condition is described as 'primary' when the symptom has always existed and the patient has not been dry for a period longer than 6 months. The condition is described as 'secondary', when there has been a symptom-free interval of 6 months.

### 3J.3 Diagnostic evaluation

The diagnosis is obtained by history-taking. In a patient with monosymptomatic enuresis, no further investigations are needed. A voiding diary, which records daytime bladder function and night-time urine output, will help to guide the treatment. An estimate of night-time urine production can be obtained by weighing diapers (nappies) in the morning and adding the volume of the morning void. Measuring the daytime bladder capacity gives an estimate of bladder capacity compared to normal values for age [328].

Ultrasound of the urinary tract is not recommended but, when available, it can be used to exclude underlying pathology. In most children, bedwetting is a familial problem, with most affected children found to have a history of bedwetting within the family. A urinary dipstick may help differentiate between true enuresis resulting from polyuria due to diabetes insipidus.

### 3J.4 Disease management

Before using alarm treatment or medication, simple therapeutic interventions should be considered.

#### 3J.4.1 Supportive treatment measures

Explaining the condition to the child and the parents helps to demystify the problem. Eating and drinking habits should be reviewed, stressing normal fluid intake during the day and reducing fluid intake in the hours before sleep. Keeping a chart depicting wet and dry nights has been shown to be successful.

Counselling, provision of information, positive reinforcement, and increasing (and supporting) motivation of the child should be introduced first. A recent Cochrane review shows that simple behavioural interventions can be effective. However other proven therapies like enuresis alarm and tricyclic antidepressants are more effective [329] (LE:1a; GR: A).

#### 3J.4.2 Alarm treatment

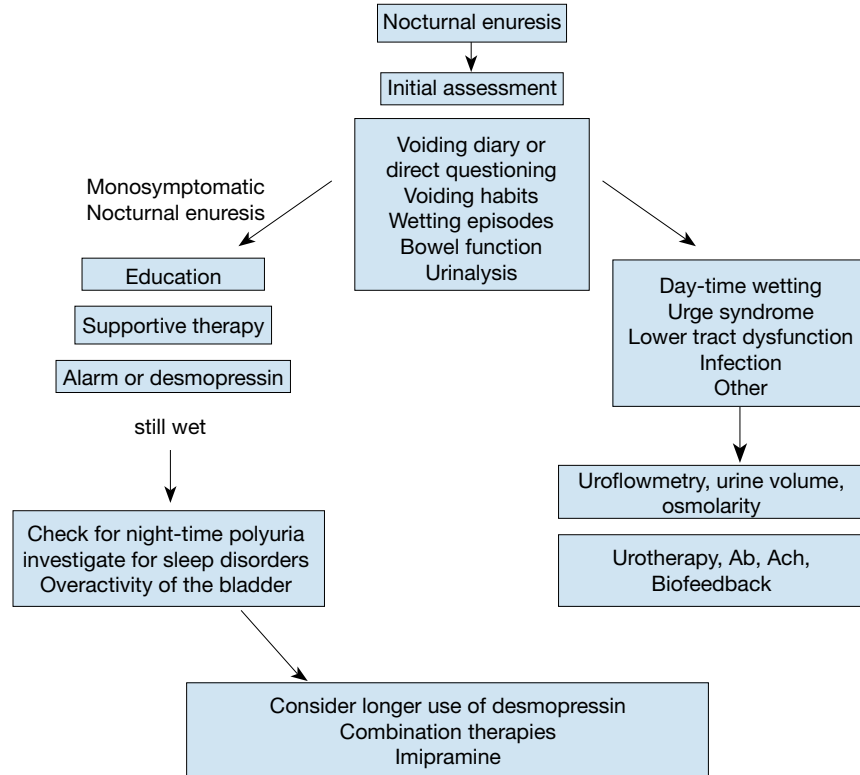
Alarm treatment is the best form for arousal disorder (LE: 1; GR: A). Initial success rates of 80% are realistic, with low relapse rates, especially when night-time diuresis is not too high and bladder capacity is not too low [330].

#### 3J.4.3 Medication

In the case of high night-time diuresis, success rates of 70% can be obtained with desmopressin (DDAVP), either as tablets (200-400 µg), or as sublingual DDAVP oral lyophilisate (120-240 µg). A nasal spray is no longer recommended due to the increased risk of overdose [331, 332] (LE: 1; GR: A). However, relapse rates are high after DDAVP discontinuation [328] and recently, structured withdrawal has shown lower relapse rates [333] (LE: 1; GR: A).

In the case of small bladder capacity, treatment with antispasmodics or anticholinergics is possible [328]. However, when these medications are necessary, the condition is no longer considered to be monosymptomatic. Imipramine, which has been popular for treatment of the enuresis, achieves only a moderate response rate of 50% and has a high relapse rate. Furthermore, cardiotoxicity and death with overdose are described. Its use should therefore be discouraged as the first-line therapy [334] (LE: 1; GR: C).

**Figure 3: Assessment and treatment of nocturnal enuresis**



**3J.5 Recommendations for the treatment of monosymptomatic enuresis**

| Recommendations  | LE | GR |
|--|----|----|
| Chronobiology of micturition in which the existence of a circadian clock has been proven in kidney, brain and bladder and disturbances in this chronobiology play a major role in the pathophysiology of enuresis.                 | 1  | A  |
| Treatment is unnecessary in younger children (< 5 years of age) in whom spontaneous cure is likely.  | 2  | A  |
| Voiding diaries or questionnaires should be used to exclude daytime symptoms.  | 2  | A  |
| A urine test is indicated to exclude the presence of infection or potential causes such as diabetes insipidus.   | 2  | B  |
| Supportive measures have limited success when used alone; they should be used in conjunction with other treatment modalities, of which pharmacological and alarm treatment are the two most important.                             | 1  | A  |
| Alarm treatment is the best treatment for arousal disorder with low relapse rates. There may be family compliance problems.  | 1  | A  |
| For the treatment of night-time diuresis, desmopressin treatment has shown to be effective. The response rate is high around 70%; relapse rates are high.  | 1  | A  |
| Structured withdrawal of desmopressin improves relapse rates.  | 1  | A  |
| The choice of the treatment modality can be made during parental counselling. The parents should be well informed about the problem, and advantages and disadvantages of each of the two treatment modalities should be explained. | 4  | B  |

# 3K MANAGEMENT OF NEUROGENIC BLADDER IN CHILDREN

## 3K.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Neurogenic detrusor-sphincter dysfunction (NDSD) can develop as a result of a lesion at any level in the nervous system. This condition contributes to various forms of LUTD, which may lead to incontinence, UTIs, VUR, and renal scarring. Surgery may be required to establish adequate bladder drainage. If not managed properly, NDSD can potentially cause renal failure, requiring dialysis or transplantation. The main goals of treatment are prevention of urinary tract deterioration and achievement of continence at an appropriate age.

The management of neurogenic bladder sphincter dysfunction in children has undergone major changes over the years. Although nappies (diapers), permanent catheters, external appliances, Crede's manoeuvre and various forms of urinary diversion have been acceptable treatment methods, these are now reserved for only a small number of resistant patients. The introduction of clean intermittent catheterisation (IC) has revolutionised the management of children with neurogenic bladder. Not only has it made conservative management a very successful treatment option, but it has also made surgical creation of continent reservoirs a very effective treatment alternative, with a good outcome for quality of life and kidney protection [335-337].

Neurogenic bladder in children with myelodysplasia presents with various patterns of DSD within a wide range of severity. About 15% of neonates with myelodysplasia have no signs of neurourological dysfunction at birth. However, there is a high chance of progressive changes in the dynamics of neurological lesions with time. Even babies with normal neurourological function at birth have a one in three risk of developing either detrusor sphincter dyssynergia or denervation by the time they reach puberty. At birth, the majority of patients have normal upper urinary tracts, but nearly 60% of them develop upper tract deterioration due to infections, bladder changes and reflux [338-341].

The most common presentation at birth is myelodysplasia. The term myelodysplasia includes a group of developmental anomalies that result from defects in neural tube closure. Lesions may include spina bifida occulta, meningocele, lipomyelomeningocele, or myelomeningocele. Myelomeningocele is by far the most common defect seen and the most detrimental. Traumatic and neoplastic spinal lesions of the cord are less frequent in children. Additionally, different growth rates between the vertebral bodies and the elongating spinal cord can introduce a dynamic factor to the lesion. Scar tissue surrounding the cord at the site of meningocele closure can tether the cord during growth.

In occult myelodysplasia, the lesions are not overt and often occur with no obvious signs of neurological lesion. In nearly 90% of patients, however, a cutaneous abnormality overlies the lower spine, and this condition can easily be detected by simple inspection of the lower back [342].

Total or partial sacral agenesis is a rare congenital anomaly that involves absence of part or all of one or more sacral vertebrae. This anomaly can be part of the caudal regression syndrome, and must be considered in any child presenting with anorectal malformation (ARM). Patients with cerebral palsy may also present with varying degrees of voiding dysfunction, usually in the form of uninhibited bladder contractions (often due to spasticity of the pelvic floor and sphincter complex) and wetting.

Bladder sphincter dysfunction is poorly correlated with the type and spinal level of the neurological lesion.

## 3K.2 Classification systems

The purpose of any classification system is to facilitate the understanding and management of the underlying pathology. There are various systems of classification of neurogenic bladder.

Most systems of classification were formulated primarily to describe those types of dysfunction secondary to neurological disease or injury. Such systems are based on the localisation of the neurological lesion and the findings of the neurourological examination. These classifications have been of more value in adults, in whom neurogenic lesions are usually due to trauma and are more readily identifiable.

In children, the spinal level and extent of congenital lesion are poorly correlated with the clinical outcome. Urodynamic and functional classifications have therefore been more practical for defining the extent of the pathology and planning treatment in children.

The bladder and sphincter are two units working in harmony to make a single functional unit. The initial approach should be to evaluate the state of each unit and define the pattern of bladder dysfunction. According to the nature of the neurological deficit, the bladder and sphincter may be in either an overactive or inactive state:

- the bladder may be overactive with increased contractions, and low capacity and compliance, or inactive with no effective contractions;
- the outlet (urethra and sphincter) may be independently overactive causing functional obstruction, or paralysed with no resistance to urinary flow;

- these conditions may present in different combinations.

This is mainly a classification based on urodynamic findings. The understanding of the pathophysiology of disorders is essential to plan a rational treatment plan for each individual patient. In meningomyelocele, most patients will present with hyper-reflexive detrusor and dyssynergic sphincter, which is a dangerous combination as pressure is built up and the upper tract is threatened.

### **3K.3 Diagnostic evaluation**

#### **3K.3.1 Urodynamic studies**

Since the treatment plan mainly depends upon a good understanding of the underlying problem in the LUT, a well-performed urodynamic study is mandatory in the evaluation of each child with neurogenic bladder.

As the bony level often does not correspond with the neurological defect present, and as the effect of the lesion on bladder function cannot be entirely determined by radiographic studies or physical examination, the information gained from a urodynamic study is priceless. A urodynamic study also provides the clinician with information about the response of the vesicourethral unit to therapy, as demonstrated by improvement or deterioration in follow-up.

It is important to determine several urodynamic parameters, including:

- the bladder capacity;
- the intravesical filling pressure;
- the intravesical pressure at the moment of urethral leakage;
- the presence or absence of reflex detrusor activity;
- the competence of the internal and external sphincteric mechanisms;
- the degree of coordination of the detrusor and sphincteric mechanisms;
- the voiding pattern;
- the post-voiding residual urine volume.

##### *3K.3.1.1 Method of urodynamic study*

There is very little comparative data evaluating the complexity and invasiveness of urodynamic testing for neurogenic bladders in children.

##### *3K.3.1.2 Uroflowmetry*

As uroflowmetry is the least invasive of all urodynamic tests, it can be used as an initial screening tool. It provides an objective way of assessing the efficiency of voiding, and, together with an ultrasonographic examination, the residual urine volume can also be determined. Unlike in children with non-neurogenic voiding dysfunction, uroflowmetry will rarely be used as a single investigational tool in children with neurogenic bladders, as it does not provide information for bladder storage, yet it may be very practical to monitor emptying in the follow-up. The main limitation of a urodynamic study is the need for the child to be old enough to follow instructions and void on request.

Recording of pelvic floor or abdominal skeletal muscle activity by electromyography (EMG) during uroflowmetry can be used to evaluate coordination between detrusor and the sphincter. As it is a non-invasive test, combined uroflowmetry and EMG may be very useful in evaluating sphincter activity during voiding [343-346] (LE: 3; GR: C).

##### **3K.3.2 Cystometry**

Although moderately invasive and dependent on a cooperative child, cystometry in children provides valuable information regarding detrusor contractility and compliance. The amount of information obtained from each study is related to the degree of interest and care given to the test.

It is important to be aware of the alterations in filling and emptying detrusor pressures as the infusion rates change during cystometry. Slow fill cystometry (filling rate < 10 mL/min) is recommended by the ICCS for use in children [347]. However, it has been suggested that the infusion rate should be set according to the child's predicted capacity, based on age and divided by 10 or 20 [325].

Several clinical studies using conventional artificial fill cystometry to evaluate neurogenic bladder in children have reported that conventional cystometry provides useful information for diagnosis and follow-up of children with neurogenic bladder [348-353]. All of the studies were retrospective clinical series and lacked comparison with natural fill cystometry, so that the grade of recommendation for an artificial cystometry in children with neurogenic bladder is not high (LE: 4). Additionally, there is evidence suggesting that natural bladder behaviour is altered during regular artificial filling cystometry [354-357].

Conventional cystometry in infants is useful for predicting future deterioration. Urodynamic parameters, such as low capacity and compliance and high leak-point pressures, are poor prognostic factors for future deterioration. Resolution of reflux is less likely to happen in such bladders [348, 352, 354] (LE: 4).

Although there are only a few studies on natural fill cystometry in children with neurogenic bladder, the results suggest that natural fill cystometry detects new findings compared with diagnoses delivered by conventional cystometry [355] (LE: 3). However, the comparison between natural fill and artificial fill cystometry has not been performed against a gold standard, making it difficult to conclude which study is a true reflection of natural bladder behaviour. Findings in the non-neurogenic adult population have questioned the reliability of natural fill cystometry, as natural fill cystometry has shown a high incidence of bladder overactivity in totally normal asymptomatic volunteers [358].

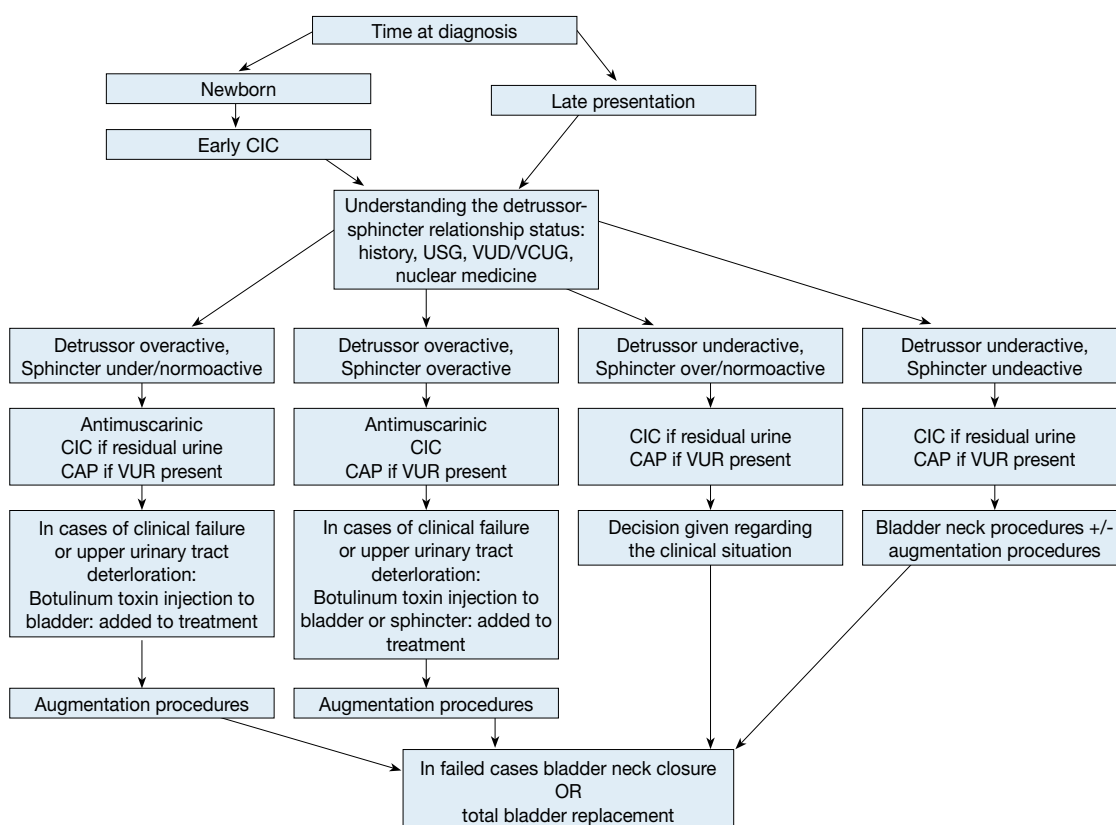
The main disadvantage of natural fill cystometry is that it is labour-intensive and time-consuming. Moreover, because of the transurethral catheter used during this study, false-positive findings caused by the catheter are possible. Especially in children, the recording of events is difficult and there is an increased risk of artefacts, which makes interpretation of the huge amount of data even more difficult. Natural fill cystometry remains a new technique in the paediatric population. More data need to be gathered in a standard way before it can be widely accepted [346].

The timing of the first urodynamic study is not clear. However, repeat studies should be done in a child with neurogenic bladder who are not responsive to the initial treatment or in whom a change in treatment or an intervention is planned.

### 3K.4 Disease management

The medical care of children with myelodysplasia with a neurogenic bladder requires constant observation and adaptation to new problems. In the first years of life, the kidneys are highly susceptible to back-pressure and infection. During this period, the emphasis is on documenting the pattern of NDSD, and assessing the potential for functional obstruction and VUR. A simple algorithm can be used for management of these patients (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Algorithm for the management of children with myelodysplasia with a neurogenic bladder**



CAP = continuous antibiotic prophylaxis; CIC = clean intermittent catheterisation; USG = urinary specific gravity; VCUG = voiding cystourethrography; VUD = videourodynamic; VUR = vesicoureteric reflux.

#### 3K.4.1 Investigations

An abdominal ultrasound obtained as soon as possible after birth will detect hydronephrosis or other upper genitourinary tract pathology. Following ultrasound, a VCUG, preferably a VUD study should be obtained to evaluate the LUT. Measurement of residual urine during both ultrasound and cystography should also be



done. These studies provide a baseline for the appearance of the upper and lower urinary tracts, can facilitate the diagnosis of hydronephrosis or VUR, and can help identify children at risk for upper genitourinary tract deterioration and impairment of renal function.

A urodynamic evaluation can be done after some weeks, and needs to be repeated at regular intervals, in combination with evaluation of the upper tract [359-361] (LE: 3; GR: B).

#### **3K.4.2 Early management with intermittent catheterisation**

Overwhelming experience gained over the years with early management of neurogenic bladder in infants has led to a consensus that children do not have upper tract deterioration when managed early with IC and anticholinergic medication. IC should be started soon after birth in all babies, especially in those with signs of possible outlet obstruction [271, 359, 362-369] (LE: 2; GR: B). Babies without any clear sign of outlet obstruction IC may be delayed but babies should be monitored for urinary tract infections and upper tract changes.

The early initiation of IC in the newborn period makes it easier for parents to master the procedure and for children to accept it as they grow older [370, 371].

Early management results in fewer upper tract changes, but also better bladder protection and lower incontinence rates. It has been suggested that increased bladder pressures due to detrusor sphincter dyssynergia cause secondary changes of the bladder wall. These fibroproliferative changes in the bladder wall may cause further loss of elasticity and compliance, resulting in a small non-compliant bladder with progressively elevated pressures.

Early institution of IC and anticholinergic drugs may prevent this in some patients [337, 369, 372] (LE: 3). The retrospective evaluation of patients has also shown that significantly fewer augmentations were required in patients with an early start of IC [363, 368] (LE: 4).

#### **3K.4.3 Medical therapy**

At present, oxybutynin, tolterodine, trospium and propiverine are the most frequently used drugs, with oxybutynin being the most studied. The dosage for oxybutynin is 0.1-0.3 mg/kg given three times daily.

Two different forms of tolterodine have been investigated in children with neurogenic bladder. The extended release formulation of tolterodine has been found to be as efficient as the instant release form, with the advantages of being single dosage and less expensive. Although the clinical outcome is encouraging, the level of evidence is low for anticholinergic medication because there are no controlled studies [372-379] (LE: 3; GR: B).

The use of medication to facilitate emptying in children with neurogenic bladder has not been well studied in the literature. A few studies investigating the use of  $\alpha$ -adrenergic blockade in children with neurogenic bladder have reported a good response rate, but the studies lacked controls, and long-term follow-up is warranted [380] (LE: 4; GR: C).

*Botulinum toxin injections:* In neurogenic bladders that are refractory to anticholinergics, injection of botulinum toxin into the detrusor muscle is a novel treatment alternative. Initial promising results in adults have initiated its use in children. It has been shown that this treatment has beneficial effects on clinical and urodynamic variables. Complete continence was achieved in 65-87% of patients; in most studies mean maximum detrusor pressure was reduced to at least 40 cmH<sub>2</sub>O and bladder compliance was increased to at least 20 cmH<sub>2</sub>O/mL. However, findings are limited by the lack of controlled trials and most studies involved small patient numbers [322, 381-385].

Botulinum toxin seems to be more effective in bladders with obvious detrusor muscle overactivity, whereas non-compliant bladders without obvious contractions are unlikely to respond [386-391].

The most commonly used dose of botulinum toxin is 10 U/kg with a maximum dose of 200 units. No dose study has been performed in children and there is no evidence regarding the optimal dose. Currently, it is unclear how many times this treatment can be repeated, although repetitive treatment has been found to be safe in adults [322, 392-394].

Injection of botulinum toxin in therapy-resistant bladders appears to be an effective and safe treatment alternative (LE: 3; GR: C). Urethral sphincter botulinum-A toxin injection has been shown to be effective in decreasing urethral resistance and improve voiding. The evidence is still too low to recommend its routine use in decreasing outlet resistance, but it could be considered as an alternative in refractory cases [395, 396].

#### **3K.4.4 Management of bowel incontinence**

Children with neurogenic bladder have disturbances of bowel function as well as urinary function. Bowel incontinence in these children is frequently unpredictable. It is related to the turnover rate of faecal material in the anal area after evacuation, the degree of intactness of sacral cord sensation and motor function, and reflex

reactivity of the external anal sphincter [397].

Bowel incontinence is managed most commonly with mild laxatives, such as mineral oil, combined with enemas to facilitate removal of bowel contents. A regular and efficient bowel emptying regimen is often necessary to maintain faecal continence, and may have to be started at a very young age. With antegrade or retrograde enemas, most of these children will have decreased constipation problems and may attain some degree of faecal continence [398-402] (LE: 3).

Biofeedback training programmes to strengthen the external anal sphincter have not been shown to be more effective than a conventional bowel management programme in achieving faecal continence [403]. Electrostimulation of the bowel may also offer a variable improvement in some patients [404] (LE: 3; GR: C).

#### **3K.4.5 Urinary tract infection**

Urinary tract infections are common in children with neurogenic bladders. In the absence of reflux, UTIs should be treated symptomatically. There is strong evidence for not prescribing antibiotics to patients who have bacteriuria but no clinical symptoms. Although bacteriuria is seen in more than half of children on clean IC, patients who are asymptomatic do not need treatment [405-407] (LE: 3). Patients with VUR should usually be placed on prophylactic antibiotics to reduce the incidence of pyelonephritis, which can potentially lead to renal damage [408, 409].

#### **3K.4.6 Sexuality**

Sexuality, while not an issue in childhood, becomes progressively more important as the patient gets older. This issue has historically been overlooked in individuals with myelodysplasia. However, patients with myelodysplasia do have sexual encounters. Studies indicate that at least 15-20% of males are capable of fathering children and 70% of females can conceive and carry a pregnancy to term. It is therefore important to counsel patients about sexual development in early adolescence.

#### **3K.4.7 Bladder augmentation**

Children with a good response to anticholinergic treatment and an overactive sphincter may be continent between catheterisations. Bladder pressure and development of the upper urinary tract (UUT) will determine whether additional treatment is necessary.

Therapy-resistant overactivity of the detrusor, or small capacity and poor compliance, will usually need to be treated by bladder augmentation. A simple bladder augmentation using intestine may be carried out if there is any bladder tissue, a competent sphincter and/or bladder neck, and a urethra that can be catheterised.

Stomach is rarely used as an augmenting patch because of the associated complications [410]. Ileal or colonic patches are frequently used for augmenting the bladder, with either equally useful. Despite some advantages (e.g. avoiding mucus, decreased malignancy rate and fewer complications), alternative urothelium-preserving techniques, such as autoaugmentation and seromuscular cystoplasty, have not proven to be as successful as standard augmentation with intestine [411, 412].

A range of applications of engineered bladder tissues are at different stages of development. There have been a few pre-clinical trials; recent progress suggests that engineered bladder tissues may have an expanded clinical application in the future [413].

#### **3K.4.8 Bladder outlet procedures**

Children with detrusor overactivity, but with underactive sphincters, will be better for protecting their upper tracts, although they will be severely incontinent. Initial treatment is IC (as it might reduce the degree of incontinence and offers much better control over UTIs) with anticholinergic drugs. At a later age, the outlet resistance will be increased in order to render them continent. No medical treatment available has been validated to increase bladder outlet resistance. Alpha-adrenergic receptor stimulation of the bladder neck has not been very effective [414-419].

When conservative measures fail, surgical procedures need to be considered for maintaining continence. Although a simple augmentation is sufficient for most low-capacity, high-pressure bladders, augmentation with additional bladder outlet procedures is required when both the bladder and outlet are deficient. Bladder outlet procedures include bladder neck reconstruction or other forms of urethral reconstruction.

Various procedures can be used on the bladder neck to increase resistance, but all of them may complicate transurethral catheterisation. Augmentation with surgical closure of the bladder neck may be required primarily, or as a secondary procedure in certain rare clinical situations. In this situation, a continent stoma will be required. However, most surgeons prefer to leave the bladder neck and urethra patent as a safety precaution. Application of artificial urinary sphincters (AUS) in children is another option which gives a chance to the patient to void spontaneously. The largest paediatric series in the literature reports a continence rate over



85% [420]. However, the decision to implant an AUS in a child raises the issue of mechanical failure (>30%), revision of the functioning sphincter (>15%) and surgical complication (15%). Although, advancement of newer devices decreased these numbers [420].

#### **3K.4.9 Continent stoma**

Augmentation with an additional continent stoma is utilised primarily after failure of previous bladder outlet surgery. It is also advisable when an inability to catheterise transurethrally is likely. An abdominal wall continent stoma may be particularly beneficial to wheelchair-bound spina bifida patients, who often have difficulty with urethral catheterisation or are dependent on others to catheterise the bladder. For continence with augmentation and an abdominal wall stoma, an adequate bladder outlet mechanism is essential to maintain continence.

#### **3K.4.10 Total bladder replacement**

Total bladder replacement in anticipation of normal voiding in children is very rare, as there are infrequent indications for a total cystectomy, with preservation of the bladder outlet and a competent urethral sphincter. This type of bladder replacement is much more common in adult urological reconstruction. Any type of major bladder and bladder outlet construction should be performed in centres with sufficient experience of the surgical technique, and with experienced healthcare personnel to carry out post-operative follow-up [421-423].

### **3K.5 Follow-up**

Neurogenic bladder patients require lifelong supervision, and the monitoring of renal and bladder function is extremely important. Periodic investigation of upper tract changes, renal function and bladder status is mandatory. Repeat urodynamic tests are therefore needed more frequently (every year) in younger children and less frequently in older children. From the urological viewpoint, a repeat urodynamic study is warranted when the patient has a change in symptoms or undergoes any neurosurgical procedure. In the case of any apparent changes in the UUT and LUT, or changes in neurological symptoms, a more detailed examination including urodynamics and spinal MRI is indicated.

Renal failure can progress slowly or occur with startling speed in these children. Patients who have undergone reconstructive procedures using intestine should be regularly followed up for complications such as infection, stone formation, reservoir rupture, metabolic changes, and malignancy [423].

The risk of malignancy in enteric augmentations has been reported to be higher than expected, and the risk increases with length of follow-up. Malignancy occurs in 0.6-2.8% of patients during median follow-up of 13-21 years [424-429]. In a study including 153 patients with a median follow-up time of 28 years [425], malignancy was found in 4.5%. The malignancy seemed to be associated with coexisting carcinogenic stimuli or with the inherent risk present with bladder exstrophy. Although there is poor data on follow-up schemes; after a reasonable follow-up time (e.g. 10 years), an annual diagnostic work-up including cystoscopy should be considered.

## **3L DILATATION OF THE UPPER URINARY TRACT (UPJ AND UVJ OBSTRUCTION)**

### **3L.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology**

Dilatation of the UUT remains a significant clinical challenge in deciding which patient will benefit from treatment.

Ureteropelvic junction (UPJ) obstruction is defined as impaired urine flow from the pelvis into the proximal ureter with subsequent dilatation of the collecting system and the potential to damage the kidney. It is the most common pathological cause of neonatal hydronephrosis [430]. It has an overall incidence of 1:1500 and a ratio of males to females of 2:1 in newborns.

Ureterovesical junction (UVJ) obstruction is an obstructive condition of the distal ureter as it enters the bladder, commonly called a primary obstructive megaureter. Megaureters are the second most likely cause of neonatal hydronephrosis. They occur more often in males and are more likely to occur on the left side [431].

It can be very difficult to define 'obstruction' as there is no clear division between 'obstructed' and 'non-obstructed' urinary tracts. Currently, the most popular definition is that an obstruction represents any restriction to urinary outflow that, if left untreated, will cause progressive renal deterioration [432].

### 3L.2 Diagnostic evaluation

The widespread use of ultrasonography during pregnancy has resulted in a higher detection rate for antenatal hydronephrosis [433]. The challenge in the management of dilated UUT is to decide which child should be observed, which child should be managed medically, and which child requires surgical intervention. Despite the wide range of diagnostic tests, there is no single test that can accurately distinguish obstructive from non-obstructive cases (Figure 1).

#### 3L.2.1 Antenatal ultrasound

Usually between the 16th and 18th weeks of pregnancy, the kidneys are visualised routinely, when almost all amniotic fluid consists of urine. The most sensitive time for foetal urinary tract evaluation is the 28th week. If dilatation is detected, ultrasound should focus on:

- laterality, severity of dilatation, and echogenicity of the kidneys;
- hydronephrosis or hydro-ureteronephrosis;
- bladder volume and bladder emptying;
- sex of the child;
- amniotic fluid volume [434].

#### 3L.2.2 Postnatal ultrasound

Since transitory neonatal dehydration lasts about 48 hours after birth, imaging should be performed following this period of postnatal oliguria. However, in severe cases (bilateral dilatation, solitary kidney, oligohydramnios), immediate postnatal sonography is recommended [435]. Ultrasound should assess the anteroposterior diameter of the renal pelvis, calyceal dilatation, kidney size, thickness of the parenchyma, cortical echogenicity, ureters, bladder wall and residual urine.

#### 3L.2.3 Voiding cystourethrogram

In newborns with identified UUT dilatation, the primary or important associated factors that must be detected include:

- vesicoureteral reflux (found in up to 25% of affected children) [436];
- urethral valves;
- ureteroceles;
- diverticula;
- neurogenic bladder.

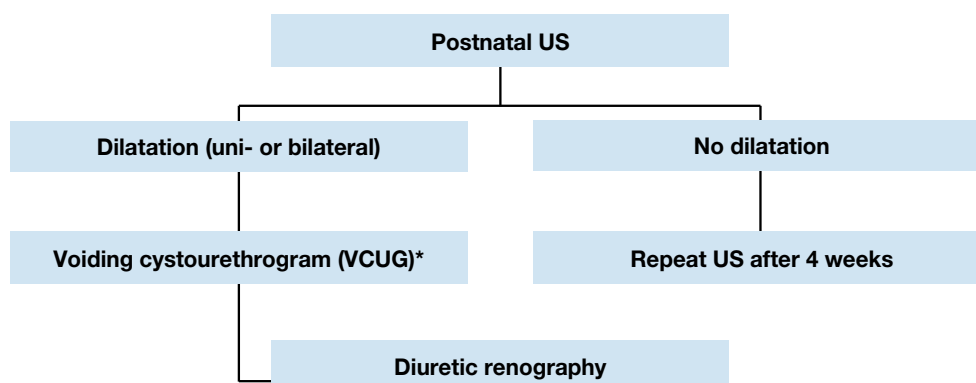
Conventional VCUG is the method of choice for primary diagnostic procedures [437].

#### 3L.2.4 Diuretic renography

Diuretic renography is the most commonly used diagnostic tool to detect the severity and functional significance of problems with urine transport. <sup>99m</sup>Tc-MAG3 is the radionuclide of choice. It is important to perform the study under standardised circumstances (hydration, transurethral catheter) after the fourth and sixth weeks of life [438].

Oral fluid intake is encouraged prior to the examination. At 15 minutes before the injection of the radionuclide, it is mandatory to administer normal saline intravenous infusion at a rate of 15 mL/kg over 30 minutes, with a subsequent maintenance rate of 4 mL/kg/h throughout the whole time of the investigation [439]. The recommended dose of furosemide is 1 mg/kg for infants during the first year of life, while 0.5 mg/kg should be given to children aged 1 to 16 years, up to a maximum dose of 40 mg.

Figure 5: Diagnostic algorithm for dilatation of the upper urinary tract



\* A diagnostic work-up including VCUG must be discussed with the parents, as it is possible that, even if reflux is detected, it may have absolutely no clinical impact. However, it should be borne in mind that reflux has been detected in up to 25% of cases of prenatally detected and postnatally confirmed hydronephrosis [436].

### 3L.3 Disease management

#### 3L.3.1 Prenatal management

Counselling the parents of an affected child is one of the most important aspects of care. The prognosis is hopeful for a hydronephrotic kidney, even if it is severely affected, as it may still be capable of meaningful renal function. In contrast, a severely hypoplastic and dysplastic kidney has a much more hopeless outlook.

It is important to be able to tell the parents exactly when they will have a definitive diagnosis for their child and what this diagnosis will mean. In some cases, however, it will be immediately obvious that the child is severely affected; there will be evidence of massive bilateral dilatation, bilateral hypoplastic dysplasia, progressive bilateral dilatation with oligohydramnios, and pulmonary hypoplasia.

Intrauterine intervention is rarely indicated and should only be performed in well-experienced centres [440].

#### 3L.3.2 UPJ obstruction

It is most important that management decisions are made on the basis of serial investigations that have used the same technique and have been performed by the same institution under standardised circumstances.

Symptomatic obstruction (recurrent flank pain, urinary tract infection) requires surgical correction using a pyeloplasty, according to the standardised open technique of Hynes and Anderson [441]. In experienced hands, laparoscopic or retroperitoneoscopic techniques and robot-assisted techniques have the same success rates as standard open procedures. In asymptomatic cases, conservative follow-up is the treatment of choice.

Indications for surgical intervention comprise impaired split renal function (< 40%), a decrease of split renal function of > 10% in subsequent studies, poor drainage function after the administration of furosemide, increased anteroposterior diameter on ultrasound, and grade III and IV dilatation as defined by the Society for Fetal Urology [442].

#### 3L.3.3 Megaureter

The treatment options of secondary megaureters are reviewed in Chapter 3M.3.

##### 3L.3.3.1 Nonoperative management

If a functional study reveals and confirms adequate ureteral drainage, conservative management is the best option. Initially, low-dose prophylactic antibiotics within the first year of life are recommended for the prevention of UTIs, although there are no existing prospective randomised trials evaluating the benefit of this regimen [443].

With spontaneous remission rates of up to 85% in primary megaureter cases, surgical management is no longer recommended, except for megaureters with recurrent UTIs, deterioration of split renal function and significant obstruction [444].

##### 3L.3.3.2 Surgical management

In general, surgery is indicated for symptomatic children and if there is a drop in function in conservative follow-up and hydroureteronephrosis is increasing [445]. Data suggest that children with a ureteric diameter of > 10-15 mm are more likely to require intervention [446].

The initial approach to the ureter can be either intravesical, extravesical or combined. Straightening the ureter is necessary without devascularisation. Ureteral tapering should enhance urinary flow into the bladder. The ureter must be tapered to achieve a diameter for an antireflux repair. Several tailoring techniques exist, such as ureteral imbrication or excisional tapering [447]. Some institutions perform endoscopic stenting, but there is still no long-term data and no prospective randomised trials to confirm their outcome.

### 3L.4 Conclusion

The use of routine perinatal sonography has resulted in increased detection of hydronephrosis caused by UPJ or UVJ obstruction. Meticulous and repeat postnatal evaluation is mandatory to try to identify obstructive cases at risk of renal deterioration and requiring surgical reconstruction. Surgical methods are quite standardised and have a good clinical outcome.

#### 3L.4.1 Conclusions and recommendations for UPJ-, UVJ-obstruction

| Conclusions  | LE |
|--|----|
| Nowadays, most hydronephrotic kidneys have already been diagnosed prenatally during a maternal ultrasound investigation. | 2  |
| Ureteropelvic junction obstruction is the leading cause of hydronephrotic kidneys (40%).                                 | 1  |

| Recommendations  | LE | GR |
|--|----|----|
| Postnatal investigations include serial ultrasound and subsequent diuretic renogram and sometimes VCUG.  | 2  | B  |
| A decision about surgical intervention should be based on the time course of the hydronephrosis and the impairment of renal function.  | 2  | B  |
| Indications for surgical intervention are an impaired split renal function due to obstruction or a decrease of split renal function in subsequent studies and increased anteroposterior diameter on the ultrasound, and grade IV dilatation as defined by the Society for Fetal Urology. | 2  | B  |
| For ureteropelvic junction obstruction, the gold standard of treatment is pyeloplasty.   | 2  | B  |
| Most primary megaureters require no surgical intervention.   | 2  | B  |

VCUG = voiding cystourethrography.

### 3M VESICoureTERIC REFLUX IN CHILDREN

The scientific literature for reflux disease is still limited and the level of evidence is generally low. Most of the studies are retrospective, include different patient groups, and have poor stratification of quality. Also, there is a high risk of presenting misleading results by combining different types of studies when systematically extracting data. Therefore, for reflux disease, it is unfortunately not possible to produce recommendations based on high-quality studies. The authors have assessed the current literature, but in the absence of conclusive findings, have provided recommendations based on panel consensus. These Guidelines aim to provide a practical approach to the treatment of VUR based on risk analysis.

#### 3M.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Vesicoureteric reflux is an anatomical and/or functional disorder with potentially serious consequences, such as renal scarring, hypertension, and renal failure. Fortunately, patients with VUR present with a wide range of severity, and a good proportion of reflux patients do not develop renal scars and probably do not need any intervention [448]. VUR is a very common urological anomaly in children, with an incidence of nearly 1%.

The main goal in management is the preservation of kidney function, by minimising the risk of pyelonephritis. By defining and analysing the risk factors for each patient (i.e. age, sex, reflux grade, LUTD, anatomical abnormalities, and kidney status), it is possible to identify those patients with a potential risk of UTIs and renal scarring. Controversy persists over the optimal management of VUR, particularly the choice of diagnostic procedures, treatment (medical, endoscopic or surgical), and the timing of treatment.

Many children present without symptoms of UTI and because invasive diagnostic procedures are performed only when clinically indicated, the exact prevalence of VUR is unknown. However, the prevalence of VUR in non-symptomatic children has been estimated at 0.4-1.8% [449]. Among infants prenatally identified with hydronephrosis on ultrasonography (US), who were screened for VUR, the prevalence was 16.2% (7-35%) [450]. Siblings of children with VUR had a 27.4% (3-51%) risk of also having VUR, whereas the offspring of parents with VUR had a higher incidence of 35.7% (21.2-61.4%) [450].

However, reflux detected by sibling screening is associated with lower grades [450] and significantly earlier resolution [451]. When VUR is discovered in siblings after UTI, it is usually high grade and associated with a high incidence of reflux nephropathy, particularly if the sibling is male and the grade of reflux was high in the index patient [452, 453].

The incidence of VUR is much higher among children with UTIs (30-50%, depending on age). UTIs are more common in girls than boys due to anatomical differences. However, among all children with UTIs, boys are more likely to have VUR than girls (29% vs. 14%). Boys also tend to have higher grades of VUR diagnosed at younger ages, although their VUR is more likely to resolve [454-457].

There is a clear co-prevalence between LUTD and VUR [269]. LUTD refers to the presence of LUTS, including urge, urge incontinence, weak stream, hesitancy, frequency and UTIs, which reflect the filling and/or emptying dysfunction that may be accompanied with bowel problems [269]. Some studies have described a prevalence of 40-60% for VUR in children with LUTD [458]. A recently published Swedish reflux trial has demonstrated LUTD in 34% of patients, and subdivision into groups characteristic of children revealed that 9% had isolated overactive bladder and 24% had voiding phase dysfunction [459].

The spontaneous resolution of VUR is dependent on age at presentation, sex, grade, laterality, mode of clinical presentation, and anatomy [451]. Faster resolution of VUR is more likely with age < 1 year at presentation, lower grade of reflux (grade 1-3), and asymptomatic presentation with prenatal hydronephrosis or sibling reflux. The overall resolution rate is high in congenital high-grade VUR during the first years of life. In several Scandinavian studies, the complete resolution rate for high-grade VUR has been reported at > 25%,

which is higher than the resolution rate for VUR detected after infancy [460, 461].

The presence of renal cortical abnormality, bladder dysfunction, and breakthrough febrile UTIs are negative predictive factors for reflux resolution [462-464].

Dilating VUR increases the risk of developing acute pyelonephritis and renal scarring. Untreated recurrent UTIs may have a negative impact on somatic growth and medical status of the child. Evidence of renal scarring is present in 10-40% of children with symptomatic VUR, resulting from either congenital dysplasia and/or acquired post-infectious damage, which may have a negative impact on somatic growth and general wellbeing [465-467].

Higher grades of VUR present with higher rates of renal scars. Scar rates vary in different patient groups. In those with prenatal hydronephrosis, renal scarring occurs in ~10% of patients [468-473], whereas in patients with LUTD, this may increase up to 30% [467, 474, 475]. Renal scarring may adversely affect renal growth and function, with bilateral scarring increasing the risk of insufficiency. Reflux nephropathy (RN) may be the most common cause of childhood hypertension. Follow-up studies have shown that 10-20% of children with RN develop hypertension or end-stage renal disease [476].

### 3M.2 Diagnostic evaluation

The diagnostic work-up should aim to evaluate the overall health and development of the child, the presence of UTIs, renal status, the presence of VUR, and LUT function. A basic diagnostic work-up comprises a detailed medical history (including family history, and screening for LUTD), physical examination including blood pressure measurement, urinalysis (assessing proteinuria), urine culture, and serum creatinine in patients with bilateral renal parenchymal abnormalities.

The standard imaging tests include renal and bladder ultrasonography (US), VCUG and nuclear renal scans. The criterion standard in diagnosis of VUR is VCUG, especially at the initial work-up. This test provides precise anatomical detail and allows grading of VUR [477]. In 1985, the International Reflux Study Committee introduced a uniform system for the classification of VUR [478, 479] (Table 7). The grading system combines two earlier classifications and is based upon the extent of retrograde filling and dilatation of the ureter, renal pelvis and calyces on VCUG [479].

Radionuclide studies for detection of reflux have lower radiation exposure than VCUG, but the anatomical details depicted are inferior [480]. Recent studies on alternative imaging modalities for detection on VUR have yielded good results with voiding urosonography and magnetic resonance VCUG [481-483]. However, despite the concerns about ionising radiation and its invasive nature, conventional VCUG still remains the gold standard because it allows better determination of the grade of VUR (in a single or duplicated kidney) and assessment of the bladder and urethral configuration.

**Table 7: Grading system for VUR on VCUG, according to the International Reflux Study Committee [479]**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Grade I   | Reflux does not reach the renal pelvis; varying degrees of ureteral dilatation   |
| Grade II  | Reflux reaches the renal pelvis; no dilatation of the collecting system; normal fornices   |
| Grade III | Mild or moderate dilatation of the ureter, with or without kinking; moderate dilatation of the collecting system; normal or minimally deformed fornices                |
| Grade IV  | Moderate dilatation of the ureter with or without kinking; moderate dilatation of the collecting system; blunt fornices, but impressions of the papillae still visible |
| Grade V   | Gross dilatation and kinking of the ureter, marked dilatation of the collecting system; papillary impressions no longer visible; intraparenchymal reflux               |

DMSA is the best nuclear agent for visualising the cortical tissue and differential function between both kidneys. DMSA is taken up by proximal renal tubular cells and is a good indicator of renal parenchyma function. In areas of acute inflammation or scarring, DMSA uptake is poor and appears as cold spots. DMSA scans are therefore used to detect and monitor renal scarring. A baseline DMSA scan at the time of diagnosis can be used for comparison with successive scans later during follow-up [479, 484]. DMSA can also be used as a diagnostic tool during suspected episodes of acute pyelonephritis [485]. Children with a normal DMSA scan during acute UTI have a low-risk of renal damage [485].

Video-urodynamic studies are only important in patients in whom secondary reflux is suspected, such as those with spina bifida or boys in whom VCUG is suggestive of posterior urethral valves. In the case of LUTS, diagnosis and follow-up can be limited to non-invasive tests (e.g. voiding charts, US, or uroflowmetry) [269]. Cystoscopy has a limited role in evaluating reflux, except for infravesical obstruction or ureteral anomalies that might influence therapy.

### 3M.2.1 **Infants presenting because of prenatally diagnosed hydronephrosis**

Ultrasound of the kidney and bladder is the first standard evaluation tool for children with prenatally diagnosed hydronephrosis. It is non-invasive and provides reliable information regarding kidney structure, size, parenchymal thickness and collecting system dilatation [486, 487].

Ultrasound should be delayed until after the first week after birth because of early oliguria in the neonate. It is essential to evaluate the bladder, as well as the kidneys. The degree of dilatation in the collecting system under US, when the bladder is both full and empty, may provide significant information about the presence of VUR. Bladder wall thickness and configuration may be an indirect sign of LUTD and reflux. The absence of hydronephrosis on postnatal ultrasound excludes the presence of significant obstruction; however, it does not exclude VUR.

Monitoring with careful US avoids unnecessary invasive and irradiating examinations. The first two US scans within the first 1-2 months of life are highly accurate for defining the presence or absence of renal pathology. In infants with two normal, successive scans, VUR is a rare entity, and if present it is likely to be low grade [468, 488]. The degree of hydronephrosis is not a reliable indicator for the presence of VUR, even though cortical abnormalities are more common in high-grade hydronephrosis [450]. The presence of cortical abnormalities on US (defined as cortical thinning and irregularity, as well as increased echogenicity) warrants the use of VCUG for detecting VUR [450]. DMSA provides more reliable and quantitative measurement of the degree of cortical abnormalities when first detected with US.

The use of VCUG is recommended in patients with US findings of bilateral high-grade hydronephrosis, duplex kidneys with hydronephrosis, ureterocele, ureteric dilatation, and abnormal bladders, because the likelihood of VUR is much higher. In all other conditions, the use of VCUG to detect reflux is optional [450, 470, 489, 490]. When infants who are diagnosed with prenatal hydronephrosis become symptomatic with UTIs, further evaluation with VCUG should be considered [490]. Patients with severe hydronephrosis and those whose hydronephrosis is sustained or progressive need further evaluation to exclude obstruction.

### 3M.2.2 **Siblings and offspring of reflux patients**

The screening of asymptomatic siblings and offspring is controversial. Some authors think that early identification of children with VUR may prevent episodes of UTI and therefore renal scarring, whereas others think that screening asymptomatic individuals is likely to result in significant over-treatment of clinically insignificant VUR.

The overall estimate for renal cortical abnormalities is 19.3% (11-54%), with 27.8% having renal damage in cohorts of symptomatic and asymptomatic children combined. In asymptomatic siblings only, the rate of renal damage is 14.4% (0-100%). Early screening and therefore early diagnosis and treatment appears to be more effective than late screening in preventing further renal damage [450, 452, 491, 492]. The lack of randomised clinical trials for screened patients to assess clinical health outcomes makes evidence-based guideline recommendations difficult.

### 3M.2.3 **Recommendations for paediatric screening of VUR**

|  |
|--|
| The parents of children with VUR should be informed that siblings and offspring have a high prevalence of VUR. |
|--|

|   |
|---|
| If screening is performed, siblings should be screened by renal US. VCUG is recommended if there is evidence of renal scarring on US or a history of UTI. |
|---|

|   |
|---|
| In older children who are toilet-trained, there is no added value in screening for VUR. |
|---|

US = ultrasound; UTI = urinary tract infection; VCUG = voiding cystourethrography; VUR = vesicoureteric reflux.

### 3M.2.4 **Children with febrile urinary tract infections**

A routine recommendation of VCUG at 0-2 years of age after the first proven febrile UTI is the safest approach as the evidence for the criteria to selecting patients for reflux detection is weak. Children with febrile infections and abnormal renal ultrasonographic findings may have higher risk of developing renal scars and they should all be evaluated for reflux [493]. If reflux is diagnosed, further evaluation has traditionally consisted of a DMSA scan.

An alternative “top-down” approach is also an option, as suggested by several studies in the literature. This approach carries out an initial DMSA scan close to the time of a febrile UTI, to determine the presence of pyelonephritis, which is then followed by VCUG if the DMSA scan reveals kidney involvement. A normal DMSA scan with no subsequent VCUG will fail to spot VUR in 5-27% of cases, with the missed VUR presumably being less significant. In contrast, a normal DMSA scan with no VCUG avoids unnecessary VCUG in > 50% of those screened [263, 494-496].



### 3M.2.5 **Children with lower urinary tract symptoms and vesicoureteric reflux**

Detection of LUTD is essential in treating children with VUR. It is suggested that reflux with LUTD resolves faster after LUTD correction, and that patients with LUTD are at higher risk for developing UTI and renal scarring [459, 497]. The coexistence of both conditions should be explored in any patient who has VUR. If there are symptoms suggestive of LUTD (e.g. urgency, wetting, constipation or holding manoeuvres), an extensive history and examination, including voiding charts, uroflowmetry and residual urine determination, will reliably diagnose underlying LUTD.

In LUTD, VUR is often low grade and US findings are normal, and there is no indication for performing VCUG in all children with LUTD, but the presence of febrile infections should be meticulously questioned. The coexistence of LUTD and VUR means it would be better to do a test covering both conditions, such as a videourodynamic study (VUDS). Any patient with LUTD and a history of febrile UTI should be investigated with a VUDS, if available. Furthermore, any child who fails standard therapy for LUTD should undergo urodynamic investigation. At this stage, combining a urodynamic study with VCUG is highly recommended.

## 3M.3 **Disease management**

There are two main treatment approaches: conservative (non-surgical) and surgical.

### 3M.3.1 **Non-surgical therapy**

The objective of conservative therapy is prevention of febrile UTI. It is based on the understanding that:

- VUR resolves spontaneously, mostly in young patients with low-grade reflux. Resolution is nearly 80% in VUR grades I and II and 30-50% in VUR grades III-V within 4-5 years of follow-up. Spontaneous resolution is low for bilateral high-grade reflux [498].
- VUR does not damage the kidney when patients are free of infection and have normal LUT function.
- There is no evidence that small scars can cause hypertension, renal insufficiency or problems during pregnancy. Indeed, these are possible only in cases of severe bilateral renal damage.
- The conservative approach includes watchful waiting, intermittent or continuous antibiotic prophylaxis, and bladder rehabilitation in those with LUTD [282, 497, 499-501].
- Circumcision during early infancy may be considered as part of the conservative approach because it is effective in reducing the risk of infection in normal children [502].

#### 3M.3.1.1 *Follow-up*

Regular follow-up with imaging studies (e.g. VCUG, nuclear cystography, or DMSA scan) is part of the conservative management to monitor spontaneous resolution and kidney status. Conservative management should be dismissed in all cases of febrile breakthrough infections, despite prophylaxis, and intervention should be considered.

#### 3M.3.1.2 *Continuous antibiotic prophylaxis*

The use of continuous antibiotic prophylaxis (CAP) and duration of follow-up during prophylaxis in reflux patients is another area of major controversy. It is clear that antibiotic prophylaxis may not be needed in every reflux patient [282, 503-505]. Trials show benefit of CAP is none or minimal in low-grade reflux. CAP is useful in patients with grade III and IV reflux in preventing recurrent infections but its use in preventing further renal damage is not proven. Toilet trained children and children with LUTD derive much better benefit from CAP [293-296, 506, 507].

It may be difficult and risky to select patients who do not need CAP. A safe approach would be to use CAP in most cases. Decision making may be influenced by the presence of risk factors for UTI, such as young age, high-grade VUR, status of toilet-training/LUTS, female sex, and circumcision status. Although the literature does not provide any reliable information about the duration of CAP in reflux patients, a practical approach would be to use CAP until after children have been toilet-trained and ensuring that there is no LUTD. CAP is mandatory in patients with LUTD and reflux. Active surveillance of UTI is needed after CAP is discontinued. The follow-up scheme and the decision to perform an antireflux procedure or discontinuation of CAP may also depend on personal preferences and the attitude of patients and parents. It is strongly advised that the advantages and disadvantages should be discussed in detail with the family.

### 3M.3.2 **Surgical treatment**

Surgical treatment can be carried out by endoscopic injection of bulking agents or ureteral reimplantation.

#### 3M.3.2.1 *Subureteric injection of bulking materials*

With the availability of biodegradable substances, endoscopic subureteric injection of bulking agents has become an alternative to long-term antibiotic prophylaxis and open surgical intervention in the treatment of



VUR in children. Using cystoscopy, a bulking material is injected beneath the intramural part of the ureter in a submucosal location. The injected bulking agent elevates the ureteral orifice and the distal ureter, so that coaptation is increased. This results in narrowing of the lumen, which prevents reflux of urine into the ureter, while still allowing its antegrade flow.

Several bulking agents have been used over the past two decades, including polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE or Teflon), collagen, autologous fat, polydimethylsiloxane, silicone, chondrocytes, and more recently, a solution of dextranomer/hyaluronic acid (Deflux).

Although the best results have been obtained with PTFE [508], due to concerns about particle migration, PTFE has not been approved for use in children [509]. Although they are all biocompatible, other compounds such as collagen and chondrocytes have failed to provide a good outcome. Deflux was approved by the US FDA in 2001 for the treatment of VUR in children. Initial clinical trials have demonstrated that this method is effective in treating reflux [510]. Studies with long-term follow-up have shown that there is a high recurrence rate which may rise as high as 20% in 2 years [503].

In a meta-analysis [511] of 5,527 patients and 8,101 renal units, the reflux resolution rate (by ureter) following one treatment for grades I and II reflux was 78.5%, 72% for grade III, 63% for grade IV, and 51% for grade V. If the first injection was unsuccessful, the second treatment had a success rate of 68% and the third treatment 34%. The aggregate success rate with one or more injections was 85%. The success rate was significantly lower for duplicated (50%) versus single (73%) systems, and neuropathic (62%) versus normal (74%) bladders.

Clinical validation of the effectiveness of antireflux endoscopy is currently hampered by the lack of methodologically appropriate studies. In the most recent prospective, randomised trials comparing three treatment arms: i) endoscopic injection; ii) antibiotic prophylaxis; iii) surveillance without antibiotic prophylaxis) in 203 children aged 1-2 years with grade III/IV reflux, endoscopic treatment gave the highest resolution rate of 71% compared to 39% and 47% for treatment arms II and III, respectively, after 2 years' follow-up. The recurrence rate at 2 years after endoscopic treatment was 20%. The occurrence of febrile UTIs and scar formation was highest in the surveillance group at 57% and 11%, respectively. New scar formation rate was higher with endoscopic injection (7%) compared with antibiotic prophylaxis (0%) [512]. Longer follow-up studies are needed to validate these findings.

#### 3M.3.2.2 *Open surgical techniques*

Various intra- and extravesical techniques have been described for the surgical correction of reflux. Although different methods have specific advantages and complications, they all share the basic principle of lengthening the intramural part of the ureter by submucosal embedding of the ureter. All techniques have been shown to be safe with a low rate of complications and excellent success rates (92-98%) [513].

The most popular and reliable open procedure is cross trigonal reimplantation described by Cohen. The main concern with this procedure is the difficulty of accessing the ureters endoscopically if needed when the child is older. Alternatives are suprahiatal reimplantation (Politano-Leadbetter technique) and infrahiatal reimplantation (Glenn-Anderson technique). If an extravesical procedure (Lich-Gregoir) is planned, cystoscopy should be performed preoperatively to assess the bladder mucosa and the position and configuration of the ureteric orifices. In bilateral reflux, an intravesical antireflux procedure may be considered, because simultaneous bilateral extravesical reflux repair carries an increased risk of temporary postoperative urine retention [514]. Overall, all surgical procedures offer very high and similar success rates for correcting VUR.

#### 3M.3.2.3 *Laparoscopy*

There have been a considerable number of case series of transperitoneal extravesical and pneumovesicoscopic intravesical ureteral reimplantation, which have shown the feasibility of the techniques. Various antireflux surgeries have been tried with the da Vinci Surgical System in an intravesicular or extravesicular manner. Today, robot-assisted laparoscopic approaches present comparable outcomes to their open surgical counterparts in terms of successful resolution of reflux. Further studies are needed to define the success rates, costs and benefits of both approaches [515, 516].

The major shortcoming of the new techniques seems to be the longer operative times, which hinder their wider acceptance. Also, laparoscopic approaches are more invasive than endoscopic correction and their advantages over open surgery are still debated. Therefore, at present, a laparoscopic approach cannot be recommended as a routine procedure. It can be offered as an alternative to the parents in centres where there is enough experience [502, 515, 517-523].

### 3M.3.3 Recommendations for the management of vesicoureteric reflux in childhood

Regardless of the grade of reflux or presence of renal scars, all patients diagnosed within the first year of life should be treated initially with CAP. During early childhood, the kidneys are at higher risk of developing new scars. Immediate, parenteral antibiotic treatment should be initiated for febrile breakthrough infections. Definitive surgical or endoscopic correction is the preferred treatment in patients with frequent breakthrough infections [520].

Surgical correction should be considered in patients with persistent high-grade reflux (grades IV/V). There is no consensus about the timing and type of surgical correction. The outcome of open surgical correction is better than endoscopic correction for higher grades of reflux, whereas satisfactory results can be achieved by endoscopic injection for lower grades.

There is no evidence that correction of persistent low-grade reflux (grades I-III) without symptoms and normal kidneys offers a significant benefit. These patients may be candidates for endoscopic treatment.

In all children presenting at age 1-5 years, CAP is the preferred option for initial therapy. For those with high-grade reflux or abnormal renal parenchyma, surgical repair is a reasonable alternative. In patients with lower grades of reflux and without symptoms, close surveillance without antibiotic prophylaxis may be an option.

A detailed investigation for the presence of LUTD should be performed in all children after toilet-training. If LUTD is found, the initial treatment should always be for LUTD.

If parents prefer definitive therapy to conservative management, surgical correction may be considered. Endoscopic treatment is an option for all children with low grades of reflux.

The traditional approach of initial medical treatment after diagnosis and shifting to interventional treatment in case of breakthrough infections and new scar formation needs to be challenged, because the treatment should be tailored to different risk groups.

The choice of management depends on the presence of renal scars, clinical course, grade of reflux, ipsilateral renal function, bilaterality, bladder function, associated anomalies of the urinary tract, age, compliance, and parental preference [517]. Febrile UTI, high-grade reflux, bilaterality, and cortical abnormalities are considered to be risk factors for possible renal damage. The presence of LUTD is an additional risk factor for new scars.

In high-risk patients who already have renal impairment, a more aggressive, multidisciplinary approach is needed.

*CAP = continuous antibiotic prophylaxis; LUTD = lower urinary tract dysfunction; UTI = urinary tract infection.*

**Table 8: Management and follow-up according to different risk groups**

| Risk Groups | Presentation  | Initial treatment  | Comment  | Follow-up   |
|-------------|---|--|--|---|
| High        | Symptomatic male or female patients after toilet-training with high-grade reflux (grades IV-V), abnormal kidneys and LUTD   | Initial treatment is always for LUTD with CAP; intervention may be considered in cases of BT infections or persistent reflux | Greater possibility of earlier intervention  | More aggressive follow-up for UTI and LUTD; full re-evaluation after 6 months             |
| High        | Symptomatic male or female patients after toilet-training with high-grade reflux (grade IV-V), abnormal kidneys and no LUTD | Intervention should be considered  | Open surgery has better results than endoscopic surgery  | Post-operative VCUG on indication only; follow-up of kidney status until after puberty    |
| Moderate    | Symptomatic male or female patients before toilet-training, with high-grade reflux and abnormal kidneys                     | CAP is the initial treatment. Intervention may be considered in cases of BT infections or persistent reflux                  | Spontaneous resolution is higher in males  | Follow-up for UTI/hydronephrosis; full re-evaluation after 12-24 months                   |
| Moderate    | Asymptomatic patients (PNH or sibling) with high-grade reflux and abnormal kidneys  | CAP is the initial treatment. Intervention may be considered in cases of BT, infections or persistent reflux                 |  | Follow-up for UTI/hydronephrosis; full re-evaluation after 12-24 months                   |
| Moderate    | Symptomatic male or female patients after toilet-training, with high-grade reflux and normal kidneys with LUTD              | Initial treatment is always for LUTD with CAP. Intervention may be considered in cases of BT infections or persistent reflux | In case of persistent LUTD, despite urotherapy, intervention should be considered. The choice of intervention is controversial | Follow-up for UTI and LUTD, kidney status; full re-evaluation after successful urotherapy |
| Moderate    | Symptomatic male or female patients after toilet-training with low-grade reflux, abnormal kidneys with or without LUTD      | Choice of treatment is controversial. Endoscopic treatment may be an option. LUTD treatment should be given if needed        |  | Follow-up for UTI, LUTD, and kidney status until after puberty                            |
| Moderate    | All symptomatic patients with normal kidneys, with low-grade reflux, with LUTD  | Initial treatment is always for LUTD with or without CAP   |  | Follow-up for UTI and LUTD  |
| Low         | All symptomatic patients with normal kidneys, with low-grade reflux, with no LUTD   | No treatment or CAP  | If no treatment is given, parents should be informed about risk of infection   | Follow-up for UTI   |
| Low         | All asymptomatic patients with normal kidneys with low-grade reflux   | No treatment or CAP in infants   | If no treatment is given, parents should be informed about risk of infection   | Follow-up for UTI   |

BT = breakthrough; CAP = continuous antibiotic prophylaxis; LUTD = lower urinary tract dysfunction; PNH = prenatal diagnosed hydronephrosis.

## 3N URINARY STONE DISEASE

### 3N.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Paediatric stone disease is an important clinical problem in paediatric urology practice. Because of its recurrent nature, every effort should be made to discover the underlying metabolic abnormality so that it can be treated appropriately. Obtaining a stone-free state with interventional management and close follow-up are of the utmost importance.

Paediatric stone disease has its own unique features, which are different in both presentation and treatment compared to stone disease in adults. In contrast to adults with stone disease who are more likely to be male, boys and girls are affected almost equally. Most paediatric stones are located in the UUT. However, bladder stones are still common in underdeveloped areas of the world and are usually ammonium acid urate and uric acid stones, strongly implicating dietary factors [524].

The incidence and characteristics of stones show a wide geographical variation in children. Although urinary stone disease is generally considered to be a relatively rare disease, it is quite common in some parts of the world. Paediatric stone disease is endemic in Turkey, Pakistan and in some South Asian, African and South American states. However, recent epidemiological studies have shown that the incidence of paediatric stone disease is also increasing in the Western world [525, 526] especially in girls, Caucasian ethnicity, and older children [527]. In the UK and other European countries, 75% of calculi in children are composed of organic matrix and struvite, with many stone formations associated with *Proteus* infection and urinary tract anomalies [528].

### 3N.2 Classification systems

Urinary stone formation is the result of a complex process involving metabolic, anatomical factors and presence of infection.

#### 3N.2.1 Calcium stones

Calcium stones are usually made from calcium oxalate or calcium phosphate. Supersaturation of calcium (hypercalciuria) and oxalate (hyperoxaluria) or decreased concentration of inhibitors, such as citrate (hypocitraturia), play a major role in the formation of calcium oxalate stones.

*Hypercalciuria*: This is defined by a 24-hour urinary calcium excretion of more than 4 mg/kg/day in a child weighing less than 60 kg. In infants younger than 3 months, 5 mg/kg/day is considered to be the upper limit of normal for calcium excretion [529].

Hypercalciuria can be classified as either idiopathic or secondary. Idiopathic hypercalciuria is diagnosed when clinical, laboratory, and radiographic investigations fail to delineate an underlying cause. Secondary hypercalciuria occurs when a known process produces excessive urinary calcium. In secondary (hypercalcaemic) hypercalciuria, a high serum calcium level may be due to increased bone resorption (hyperparathyroidism, hyperthyroidism, immobilisation, acidosis, metastatic disease) or gastrointestinal hyperabsorption (hypervitaminosis D) [530].

A good screening test for hypercalciuria compares the ratio of urinary calcium to creatinine. The normal calcium-to-creatinine ratio in children is less than 0.2. If the calculated ratio is higher than 0.2, repeat testing is indicated. Neonates and infants have a higher calcium excretion and lower creatinine excretion than older children [529, 530]. If the follow-up ratios are normal, then no additional testing for hypercalciuria is needed. However, if the ratio remains elevated, a timed 24-hour urine collection should be obtained and the calcium excretion calculated.

The 24-hour calcium excretion test is the criterion standard for the diagnosis of hypercalciuria. If calcium excretion is higher than 4 mg/kg/day (0.1 mmol/kg/day), the diagnosis of hypercalciuria is confirmed and further evaluation is warranted. Further evaluation includes levels of serum bicarbonate, creatinine, alkaline phosphatase, calcium, magnesium, pH, and parathyroid hormone. Freshly voided urine should be measured for pH [529-532]. A 24-hour urine collection should also be made to measure calcium, phosphorus, sodium, magnesium, citrate and oxalate. Meanwhile, dietary manipulations should be tried to normalise urine calcium [531].

Initial management is always to increase fluid intake and urinary flow. Dietary modification is a mandatory part of effective therapy. The child should be referred to a dietician to assess accurately the daily intake of calcium, animal protein, and sodium. Dietary sodium restriction is recommended as well as maintenance of calcium intake consistent with the daily needs of the child [533].

A brief trial of a low-calcium diet can be carried out to determine if exogenous calcium intake is contributing to high urinary calcium. However, great caution should be used when trying to restrict calcium intake for long periods (LE: 3; GR: B).

Hydrochlorothiazide and other thiazide-type diuretics may be used to treat hypercalciuria at a

dosage of 1-2 mg/kg/day [528, 534] (LE: 3; GR: C). In long-term use of thiazide-type diuretics, a decrease in hypocalcaemic effect may be seen after the third month and may cause hypokalemia and hypocitraturia. Therefore, control of blood and serum values should be performed with regular intervals. Citrate therapy is also useful if citrate levels are low or if hypercalcaemia persists, despite other therapies [528, 535] (LE: 4; GR: C).

*Hyperoxaluria:* Oxalic acid is a metabolite excreted by the kidneys. Only 10-15% of oxalate comes from diet. Normal school children excrete less than 50 mg (0.57 mmol)/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>/day [528, 536], while infants excrete four times as much. Hyperoxaluria may result from increased dietary intake, enteric hyperabsorption (as in short bowel syndrome) or an inborn error of metabolism.

In primary hyperoxaluria, one of the two liver enzymes that play a role in the metabolism of oxalate may be deficient. In primary hyperoxaluria there is increased deposition of calcium oxalate in the kidney and in urine. With increased deposition of calcium oxalate in the kidneys, renal failure may ensue in resulting deposition of calcium oxalate in other tissues. The diagnosis is made upon laboratory findings of severe hyperoxaluria and clinical symptoms. The definitive diagnosis requires liver biopsy to assay the enzyme activity.

Other forms of hyperoxaluria, as mentioned earlier, may be due to hyperabsorption of oxalate in inflammatory bowel syndrome, pancreatitis and short bowel syndrome. Yet, the majority of children who have high levels of oxalate excretion in urine may not have any documented metabolic problem or any dietary cause. This is known as idiopathic 'mild' hyperoxaluria, with urine oxalate levels elevated only mildly in these cases. The treatment of hyperoxaluria consists of the promotion of high urine flow, restriction of dietary oxalate and regular calcium intake. Pyridoxine may be useful in reducing urine levels, especially in primary hyperoxaluria [528, 536] (LE: 4; GR: C).

*Hypocitraturia:* Citrate is a urinary stone inhibitor. Citrate acts by binding to calcium and by directly inhibiting the growth and aggregation of calcium oxalate as well as calcium phosphate crystals. Thus, low urine citrate may be a significant cause of calcium stone disease. In adults, hypocitraturia is the excretion of citrate in urine of less than 320 mg/day (1.5 mmol/day) for adults; this value must be adjusted for children depending on body size [537, 538].

Hypocitraturia usually occurs in the absence of any concurrent symptoms or any known metabolic derangements. It may also occur in association with any metabolic acidosis, distal tubular acidosis or diarrhoeal syndromes.

Environmental factors that lower urinary citrate include a high protein intake and excessive salt intake. Many reports emphasise the significance of hypocitraturia in paediatric calcium stone disease. The presence of hypocitraturia ranges from 30% to 60% in children with calcium stone disease.

Due to the increased stone risk in hypocitraturia, the restoration of normal citrate levels is advocated to reduce stone formation. Although some studies have shown that citrate replacement therapy reduces the risk of stone formation in an adult population, there are few relevant studies in children. Hypocitraturia is treated by potassium citrate at a starting dose of 1 mEq/kg, given in two divided doses [538] (LE: 3; GR: B). The side effects of potassium citrate are very rare and most of the time they include non-specific gastrointestinal complaints. Potassium citrate should be used with caution in hyperkalemic and chronic renal failure conditions.

### 3N.2.2 **Uric acid stones**

Uric acid stones are responsible for urinary calculi in 4-8% of children. Uric acid is the end product of purine metabolism. Hyperuricosuria is the main cause of uric acid stone formation in children. A daily output of uric acid of more than 10 mg/kg/day is considered to be hyperuricosuria [528].

The formation of uric acid stones is mainly dependent on the presence of acidic urinary composition. Uric acid dissociation and solubility is strongly reduced at pH of less than 5.8. As the pH becomes more alkaline, uric acid crystals become more soluble and the risk of uric acid stone formation is reduced.

In the familial or idiopathic form of hyperuricosuria, children usually have normal serum uric acid levels. In other children, it can be caused by uric acid overproduction secondary to inborn errors of metabolism, myeloproliferative disorders or other causes of cell breakdown. Hyperuricosuria is also caused by high purine and protein intake. Although hyperuricosuria is a risk factor for calcium oxalate stone formation in adults, this does not appear to be a significant risk factor in children.

Uric acid stones are non-opaque stones. Plain X-rays are insufficient to show uric acid stones, and renal sonography and spiral CT are used for diagnosis.

Alkalinisation of urine is the mainstay of therapy and prevention for uric acid stones. Citrate preparations are useful as alkalinising agents. Maintaining a urine pH of 6 to 6.5 is sufficient to prevent uric acid stones [528]. In cases who failed with conservative measures with sustaining hyperuricosuria, stone recurrences or myeloproliferative diseases, allopurinol (10 mg/kg) may be used. This medication may cause several drug reactions (rash, diarrhoea, eosinophilia) and should be cautiously used in chronic renal failure patients.

### 3N.2.3 **Cystine stones**

Cystinuria is the cause of cystine stone formation and accounts for 2-6% of all urinary stones in children. Cystinuria is an incompletely recessive autosomal disorder characterised by failure of renal tubules to reabsorb four basic amino acids: cystine, ornithine, lysine and arginine.

Of these four amino acids, only cystine has poor solubility in urine, so that only cystine stones may form in the case of excessive excretion in urine. Cystine solubility is pH-dependent, with cystine precipitation beginning at pH levels < 7.0. Other metabolic conditions, such as hypercalciuria, hypocitraturia and hyperuricosuria, may accompany cystinuria, so leading to the formation of mixed-composition stones. Cystine stones are faintly radiolucent and may be difficult to show on regular radiograph studies. They are also hard in texture and more difficult to disintegrate by extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (SWL).

The medical treatment for cystine stones aims to reduce cystine saturation in urine and increase its solubility. The initial treatment consists of maintaining a high urine flow and the use of alkalinising agents, such as potassium citrate to maintain urine pH at above 7.0. If this treatment fails, the use of alpha-mercaptopyronyl glycine may reduce cystine levels in urine and prevent stone formation. Side effects of these drugs are mostly mild and include gastrointestinal complaints (alterations in taste and odour), fever, rash and can be associated with severe side effects, such as bone marrow depression, nephrotic syndrome and epidermolysis [539] (LE: 4; GR: C).

### 3N.2.4 **Infection stones (struvite stones)**

Infection-related stones constitute nearly 5% of urinary stones in children. Bacteria capable of producing urease enzyme (*Proteus*, *Klebsiella*, *Pseudomonas*) are responsible for the formation of such stones.

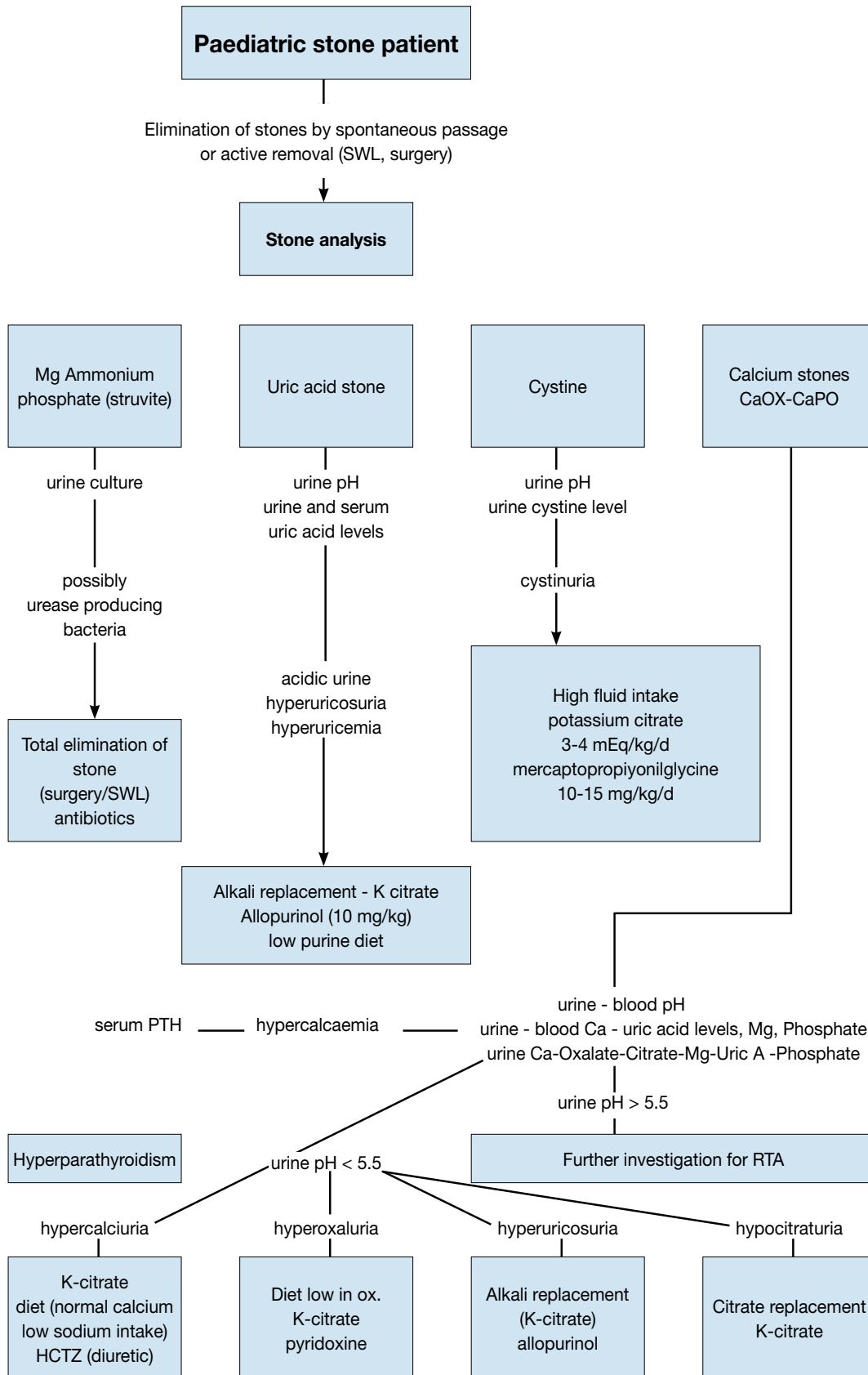
Urease converts urea into ammonia and bicarbonate, so alkalinising the urine and further converting bicarbonate into carbonate. In the alkaline environment, triple phosphates form, eventually resulting in a supersaturated environment of magnesium ammonium phosphate and carbonate apatite, which in turn leads to stone formation.

In addition to bacterial elimination, stone elimination is essential for treatment, as stones will harbour infection and antibiotic treatment will not be effective. Consideration should be given to investigating any congenital problem that causes stasis and infection. Genitourinary tract anomalies predispose to formation of such stones.

## 3N.3 **Diagnostic evaluation**

Presentation tends to be age-dependent, with symptoms such as flank pain and haematuria being more common in older children. Non-specific symptoms (e.g. irritability, vomiting) are common in very young children. Haematuria, usually gross, occurring with or without pain, is less common in children. However, microscopic haematuria may be the sole indicator and is more common in children. In some cases, urinary infection may be the only finding leading to radiological imaging in which a stone is identified [540, 541].

**Figure 6: Algorithm for metabolic investigations in urinary stone disease in children**



SWL = extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy; HCTZ = hydrochlorothiazide; PTH = parathyroid hormone; RTA = renal tubular acidosis.



### 3N.3.1 **Imaging**

Generally, ultrasonography should be used as a first study. Renal ultrasonography is very effective for identifying stones in the kidney. Many radiopaque stones can be identified with a simple abdominal flat-plate examination.

If no stone is found but symptoms persist, spiral CT scanning is indicated. The most sensitive test for identifying stones in the urinary system is non-contrast helical CT scanning. It is safe and rapid, with 97% sensitivity and 96% specificity [542-544] (LE: 2; GR: B). Intravenous pyelography is rarely used in children, but may be needed to delineate the caliceal anatomy prior to percutaneous or open surgery.

### 3N.3.2 **Metabolic evaluation**

Due to the high incidence of predisposing factors for urolithiasis in children and high stone recurrence rates, every child with urinary stone should be given a complete metabolic evaluation [524, 545, 546].

Metabolic evaluation includes:

- Family and patient history of metabolic problems.
- Analysis of stone composition (following stone analysis, metabolic evaluation can be modified according to the specific stone type).
- Electrolytes, BUN, creatinine, calcium, phosphorus, alkaline phosphatase, uric acid, total protein, carbonate, albumin, and parathyroid hormone (if there is hypercalcaemia).
- Spot urinalysis and culture, including ratio of calcium to creatinine.
- Urine tests, including a 24-hour urine collection for calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, oxalate, uric acid citrate, cystine, protein, and creatinine clearance.

Figure 6 provides an algorithm of how to perform metabolic investigations in urinary stone disease in children and how to plan medical treatment accordingly.

## 3N.4 **Disease management**

With the advance of technology stone management has changed from open surgical approach to endoscopic techniques that are less invasive. Deciding the form of treatment depends on the number, size, location, composition and anatomy of the urinary tract [545, 547, 548].

Currently, most paediatric stones can easily be managed by SWL. Endoscopic treatment can be applied easily for ureteric and bladder stones. Percutaneous removal of stones is also possible for kidney stones in children. Only a small portion of children will need an open surgical approach.

### 3N.4.1 **Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy**

Many reports confirm that SWL can be performed in children with no suspicion of long-term morbidity of the kidney [549-554].

The mean number of shock waves for each treatment is about 1800 and 2000 (up to 4000 if needed) and the mean power set varies between 14 kV and 21 kV. The use of ultrasonography and digital fluoroscopy has significantly decreased the radiation exposure and it has been shown that children are exposed to significantly lower doses of radiation compared to adults [547, 555, 556]. Concerns about anaesthesia do not seem to be a problem anymore because of advances in technique and medication, even in the infant period. The type of anaesthesia should be general or dissociative for children under 10 years of age, whereas conventional intravenous sedation or patient-controlled analgesia is an option for older children who are able to co-operate [557] (LE: 2b).

Stone-free rates are significantly affected by various factors. Regardless of the location, as the stone size increases, the stone-free rates decrease and re-treatment rate increases. The stone-free rates for < 1 cm, 1-2 cm, > 2 cm and overall, were reported as nearly 90%, 80%, 60% and 80%, respectively. As the stone size increases, the need for additional sessions increases [547, 555, 556, 558-562].

Localisation of the calculi has been described as a significant factor affecting the success rates in different studies. Stones in renal pelvis and upper ureter seem to respond better to SWL. In these mentioned sites, the stone clearance rates are nearly 90%. However, SWL was found to be less effective for caliceal stones particularly the lower caliceal stones. Several studies reported stone-free rates for isolated lower caliceal stones varying between 50% and 62% [563-566].

Shockwave lithotripsy can also be used to treat ureteral calculi. However, this is a more specific issue and with controversies. The success rates with SWL are less for distal ureteric stones. There may also be technical problems with localisation and focusing of ureteric stones in children [563-565, 567, 568].

The type of machine used has a strong effect on success rates and complications. First-generation machines can deliver more energy to a larger focal zone, resulting in higher fragmentation rates in a single therapy. However, general anaesthesia is usually required due to the intolerable discomfort associated with a

first-generation machine. Later-generation machines have a smaller focal zone and deliver less energy, and have a lower risk of pulmonary trauma. However, additional treatments may be needed with later-generation machines. The success rate is higher in younger children [561].

Although stenting does not affect stone clearance, overall complication rates are higher and hospital stay is longer in the unstented patient [560, 561]. Stenting is essential in solitary kidneys undergoing SWL treatment. Children with a large stone burden have a high risk of developing Steinstrasse and urinary obstruction and should be followed more closely for the risk of prolonged urinary tract obstruction after SWL. Post-SWL stent or nephrostomy tube placement may be needed in prolonged obstruction [546, 562].

The Hounsfield Unit (HU) of stone on noncontrast tomography has also been shown to be a predictor factor for success in children and SWL was found to be more successful in stones with HU less than 600 [569] and 1000 [570].

Complications arising from SWL in children are usually self-limiting and transient. The most common are:

- renal colic;
- transient hydronephrosis;
- dermal ecchymosis;
- urinary tract infection;
- formation of Steinstrasse;
- sepsis;
- rarely, haemoptysis.

In children with sterile pre-operative urine cultures, antibiotic prophylaxis to decrease infectious complications is not recommended [571]. However, every effort should be made to sterilise the urine before performing SWL, ureteroscopy (URS), or percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PCNL).

### 3N.4.2 **Percutaneous nephrolithotomy**

Shockwave lithotripsy is the first choice for treating most renal paediatric stones. However, percutaneous renal surgery can be used for larger and complex stones. Pre-operative evaluation, indication and surgical technique are similar in children compared to adults. In most cases, PCNL is used as monotherapy, but is also used as an adjunctive procedure to other therapies.

The use of adult-sized instruments, in association with an increased number of tracts and sheath size, seems to increase blood loss. However, the development of small-calibre instruments means that PCNL can be used in children. In children (particularly smaller children), PCNL has some advantages, such as smaller skin incision, single-step dilation and sheath placement, good working access for paediatric instruments, variable length, and lower cost [571, 572].

As monotherapy, PCNL is considerably effective and safe. The reported stone-free rates in the recent literature are between 86.9% and 98.5% after a single session. These rates increase with adjunctive measures, such as second-look PCNL, SWL and URS. Even in complete staghorn cases, a clearance rate of 89% has been achieved following a single session [573-578].

The most frequently reported complications of PCNL in children are bleeding, post-operative fever or infection, and persistent urinary leakage. Bleeding requiring transfusion in the modern series is reported in less than 10% [579-584] and is closely associated with stone burden, operative time, sheath size and the number of tracts [579, 585, 586]. In recent studies, post-operative infectious complications, such as fever with or without documented UTI, are reported as less than 15% [579-581, 583, 584, 587] and the origin of fever is not always found to be the infection. With the availability of smaller size instruments, miniaturised PCNL ('mini-perc') through a 13F or 14F sheath has become possible [572, 588, 589], with decreased transfusion rates [588]. This miniaturisation has been further developed into the technique of 'micro-perc' using a 4.85F 'all-seeing needle'. This technique is still experimental and enables the stone to be fragmented by a laser in situ and left for spontaneous passage [590]. A recent study revealed that microperc provides a similar stone-free rate with similar complication rates and a lower additional treatment rate compared with SWL in the treatment of kidney stone disease in children [591] (LE: 3, GR: B). As experience has accumulated in adult cases, new approaches have also started to be applied in children, including tubeless PCNL. This technique has been used in uncomplicated surgery for stones smaller than 2 cm, with patients left either with an indwelling catheter or double J stent in the ureter [582, 587] or totally tubeless [592].

The mean post-operative hospital stay is similar to adults. It is reported as 3-4 days in all published literature and is much shorter than open surgery. The less invasive nature of this technique has made it a promising alternative to open surgery for treating renal stones in children (LE: 2; GR: B).

### 3N.4.3 **Ureterorenoscopy**

The increasing availability of smaller size endourological equipment has made it possible to manage paediatric ureteral stones using endoscopic techniques.

The technique used in children is similar to the one used in adults. It is strongly recommended that guide wires are used and the procedure is performed using direct vision. Routine balloon dilation of ureterovesical junction and ureteral stenting are controversial. In general, ureteric dilatation is being performed much less and only in selected cases. There is a tendency to use hydrodilation more because it is similarly effective [571, 593-599] (LE: 3; GR: B).

Different lithotripsy techniques, including ultrasonic, pneumatic and laser lithotripsy, have all been shown to be safe and effective. Because of the smaller size of the probes, laser energy is easier to use in smaller instruments and is more useful for paediatric cases [574, 596, 598, 600-606].

All studies reporting the use of endoscopy for ureteric stones in children have clearly demonstrated that there is no significant risk of ureteric strictures or reflux with this mode of therapy (LE: 1; GR: A). A multi-institutional study on the use of semi-rigid ureteroscopy for ureteral calculi in children has revealed that the procedure is effective with a 90% stone-free rate and efficacy quotient. The study also focused on the factors affecting the complication rates. The authors found that although operating time, age, institutional experience, orifice dilation, stenting and stone burden were significant on univariate analysis, multivariate analysis revealed that operating time was the only significant parameter affecting the complication rate [607].

A recent literature review contains a growing number of case series on the use of flexible ureterorenoscopic interventions in children. Both intrarenal and ureteric stones can be treated using this approach [608-612]. In these series, the authors generally did not use active orifice dilation, but attempted to use a ureteral sheath where possible. However, an important problem was the inability to obtain retrograde access to the ureter in approximately half of the cases [609, 610]. This problem can be overcome by stenting and leaving the stent indwelling for passive dilation of the orifice, and performing the procedure in a second session. The success rates varied between 60 and 100%, with a negligible number of complications [608, 610-613]. The need for additional procedures was related to stone size [612]. A comparative study showed that RIRS had similar stone-free rate compared to ESWL after three months, with fewer sessions [614] (LE: 3, GR: B).

### 3N.4.4 **Open or laparoscopic stone surgery**

Most stones in children can be managed by SWL and endoscopic techniques. However, in some situations, open surgery is inevitable. Good candidates for open stone surgery include very young children with large stones and/or a congenitally obstructed system, which also requires surgical correction. Open surgery is also necessary in children with severe orthopaedic deformities that limit positioning for endoscopic procedures.

In centres with a well-established experience, a laparoscopic approach may be a good alternative for some cases as a last resort before open surgery. Suitable candidates include patients who have a history of previous failed endoscopic procedures, complex renal anatomy (ectopic or retrorenal colon), concomitant UPJ obstruction or caliceal diverticula, megaureter, or large impacted stones. Laparoscopic stone surgery via conventional or a robot-assisted transperitoneal or retroperitoneal approach can be attempted. However, there is very limited experience with these techniques and they are not routine therapeutic modalities [615-617].

Bladder stones in children can usually be managed by endoscopic techniques. Open surgery may also be used for very large bladder stones or for bladder stones caused by an anatomical problem. Recommendations for interventional management are given in Table 9.

**Table 9: Recommendations for interventional management in paediatric stones**

| Stone size and localisation* | Primary treatment option | LE | GR | Secondary treatment options | Comment  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----|----|-----------------------------|--|
| Staghorn stones              | PCNL                     | 2  | B  | Open/SWL                    | Open/SWL Multiple sessions and accesses with PCNL may be needed. Combination with SWL may be useful. |
| Pelvis < 10 mm               | SWL                      | 1  | A  | RIRS/PCNL/MicroPerc         |  |
| Pelvis 10-20 mm              | SWL                      | 2  | B  | PCNL/RIRS/MicroPerc/Open    | Multiple sessions with SWL may be needed. PCNL has similar recommendation grade.                     |
| Pelvis > 20 mm               | PCNL                     | 2  | B  | SWL/Open                    | Multiple sessions with SWL may be needed.  |
| Lower pole calyx < 10 mm     | SWL                      | 2  | B  | RIRS/PCNL/MicroPerc         | Anatomical variations are important for complete clearance after SWL.                                |
| Lower pole calyx > 10 mm     | PCNL                     | 2  | B  | SWL/ MicroPerc              | Anatomical variations are important for complete clearance after SWL.                                |
| Upper ureteric stones        | SWL                      | 2  | B  | PCNL/URS/Open               |  |
| Lower ureteric stones        | URS                      | 1  | A  | SWL/Open                    | Additional intervention need is high with SWL.   |
| Bladder stones               | Endoscopic               | 2  | B  |                             | Open is easier and with less operative time with large stones.                                       |

\* Cystine and uric acid stones excluded. *PCNL* = percutaneous nephrolithostomy; *SWL* = shock-wave lithotripsy; *RIRS* = retrograde intrarenal surgery; *URS* = ureteroscopy.

### 3N.5 Conclusions and recommendations

| Conclusions  | LE |
|--|----|
| The incidence of stone disease in children is increasing.  | 2  |
| Any child with urinary stone disease deserves metabolic and anatomical evaluation.                         | 2  |
| Treatment should be supported with medical treatment for the underlying metabolic abnormality if detected. | 1  |
| Open surgery for stone disease in children is an exceedingly rare requirement.                             | 1  |
| Surgical treatment is based on minimally invasive modalities.  | 1  |

| Recommendations   | LE | GR |
|---|----|----|
| In most cases, plain abdominal X-ray and ultrasonography is sufficient for diagnosis and follow-up.         | 2  | B  |
| Non-contrast CT may be required in cases with a doubtful diagnosis or complex cases requiring surgery.      | 2  | B  |
| The use of appropriately-sized instruments will decrease the number of complications in surgical treatment. | 1  | A  |

# 30 OBSTRUCTIVE PATHOLOGY OF RENAL DUPLICATION: URETEROCELE AND ECTOPIC URETER

## 30.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Ureterocele and ectopic ureter are the two main anomalies associated with complete renal duplication, but they also occur in a single system. At present, antenatal ultrasonography detects both conditions in the majority of cases if associated with obstruction, and diagnosis is confirmed after birth by further examination. Later in life, these anomalies are revealed by clinical symptoms: UTI, pain, calculus formation, disturbances of micturition, and urinary incontinence. There is a wide variation of symptoms in patients with ureterocele (from the asymptomatic patient to urosepsis, urinary retention and upper tract dilatation after birth).

### 30.1.1 Ureterocele

Ureterocele is 4-7 times more frequent in female than in male patients; the overall incidence in autopsies is around 1 in 4,000 children. Around 80% is associated with the upper pole ureter in duplicated systems and 20% in single systems. About 10% of ureteroceles are bilateral [618].

### 30.1.2 Ectopic ureter

Ectopic ureter is less frequent than ureterocele (10 in 19,046 autopsies), but is also more common in female patients (male to female ratio, 1:5). Some remain asymptomatic, therefore, the true incidence is difficult to determine [619]. Eighty per cent of ectopic ureters are associated with complete renal duplication; however, in male patients about 50% of ectopic ureters are associated with a single system [620].

## 30.2 Classification systems

### 30.2.1 Ureterocele

Ureterocele is a cystic dilatation that develops in the intravesical part of the submucosal ureter. The aetiology remains unclear [621-623]. A single-system ureterocele is associated with a kidney with one ureter, and in duplex systems, the ureterocele belongs to the upper pole.

Ureteroceles usually cause obstruction of the upper pole, but the degree of obstruction and functional impairment is variable according to the type of ureterocele and upper pole dysplasia. In the orthotopic form, there is often no or only mild obstruction, and frequently the function of the moiety is normal or slightly impaired, and the corresponding ureter may be dilated. Cystic renal dysplasia is also associated with a single system ureterocele [624, 625]. Vesicoureteral reflux can be observed in 50% on the ipsilateral side and 20% on the contralateral side. Reflux into the ureterocele is uncommon [626].

In the ectopic form, the upper pole is altered, frequently dysplastic, and hypo-functional or non-functional [627, 628]. The corresponding ureter is a megaureter. In the caeco-ureterocele (see definition below), the upper pole of the renal duplication is dysplastic and non-functional.

#### 30.2.1.1 Ectopic (extravesical) ureterocele

If any portion of the ureterocele extends into the bladder neck or urethra, it is called an ectopic ureterocele. Ectopic ureterocele is the most common form of ureterocele (> 80%). It can be voluminous, dissociating the trigone and slipping into the urethra, and may prolapse through the urethral meatus (caeco-ureterocele). The ureterocele orifice is tight, and located in the bladder itself or below the neck. The ureter corresponding to the lower pole moiety is raised by the ureterocele and is frequently refluxing or compressed by the ureterocele, leading to an obstructive megaureter. A contralateral renal duplication is associated in 50% of cases. Occasionally, large ureteroceles are responsible for reflux or obstruction of the contralateral upper tract.

#### 30.2.1.2 Orthotopic (intravesical) ureterocele

The intravesical or orthotopic ureterocele is completely located in the bladder. Intravesical ureteroceles are mostly combined with a single kidney system and account for about 15% of cases. It is seen more in older children or adults.

### 30.2.2 Ectopic ureter

The term ectopic ureter describes a ureter with the orifice located at the bladder neck, in the urethra, or outside the urinary tract. The ureter can drain the upper pole of a duplex or single system. There is a fundamental difference between the sexes. In boys, the ectopic orifice is never below the external sphincter.

In girls, the ureteral orifice may be located [629]:

- in the urethra, from the bladder neck to the meatus (35%);

- in the vaginal vestibule (34%);
- in the vagina (25%);
- in the uterus and Fallopian tube (6%).

In boys, the ureteral orifice may be located [629]:

- in the posterior urethra (47%);
- in the prostatic utricle (10%);
- in the seminal vesicles (33%);
- in the vas deferens or ejaculatory ducts (10%).

### 30.3 Diagnostic evaluation

#### 30.3.1 Ureterocele

Prenatal ultrasound easily reveals voluminous obstructive ureteroceles [630, 631]. In cases with a small upper pole or a slightly obstructive ureterocele, prenatal diagnosis is difficult. If prenatal diagnosis is impossible, the following clinical symptoms, besides incidental findings, can reveal the congenital anomaly at birth or later:

- At birth, a prolapsed and sometimes strangulated ureterocele may be observed in front of the urethral orifice. In a newborn boy, it might cause acute urinary retention, simulating urethral valves.
- The early symptom of pyelonephritis in either sex may lead to the diagnosis.
- Later symptoms can include dysuria, recurrent cystitis and urgency.

In cases of prenatal diagnosis at birth, ultrasonography confirms the ureteral dilatation that ends at the upper pole of a renal duplication. It also demonstrates the presence of a ureterocele in the bladder, with a dilated ureter behind the bladder.

At this point, it is important to assess the function of the upper pole using nuclear renography of the region of interest. This is best assessed with DMSA [632-634]. Magnetic resonance urography may visualise the morphological status of the upper pole and lower moieties and of the contralateral kidney, but cannot reliably predict histology [635]. Based on the prevalence of high-grade reflux, VCUG is mandatory for identifying ipsilateral or contralateral reflux, and assessing the degree of intraurethral prolapse of the ureterocele [636]. Urethrocytostomy may reveal the pathology in cases where it is difficult to make the differential diagnosis between ureterocele and ectopic megaureter.

#### 30.3.2 Ectopic ureter

Most of the ectopic megaureters are diagnosed primarily by ultrasonography. In some cases, clinical symptoms can lead to diagnosis:

- In neonates: dribbling of urine, pyuria, and acute pyelonephritis.
- In young girls: permanent urinary incontinence besides normal voiding, or significant vaginal discharge as the equivalent of incontinence; an ectopic orifice may be found in the meatal region [637].
- In pre-adolescent boys: epididymitis is the usual clinical presentation and the seminal vesicle may be palpable.

Ultrasonography, radionuclide studies (DMSA), VCUG, MR urography, high-resolution MRI, and cystoscopy are the diagnostic tools to assess function, to detect reflux and rule out ipsilateral compression of the lower pole and urethral obstruction [638]. In some cases, the large ectopic ureter presses against the bladder and can look like a pseudo-ureterocele [639, 640].

Girls who present with lifelong minimal urinary incontinence, never being dry, normal bladder function, complete emptying, and normal US are very suspicious for ectopic ureter. This needs to be excluded or confirmed by further imaging (e.g. MRI). Filling the bladder with methylene blue and checking for clear urine output from the vagina can give clear evidence of extrasphincteric ureteral ectopia. This test is also helpful in confirming a vesicovaginal fistula (in this case blue fluid drains from the vagina).

### 30.4 Disease management

#### 30.4.1 Ureterocele

The management is controversial with a choice between a non-operative approach, endoscopic decompression, ureteral reimplantation, partial nephroureterectomy, or complete primary reconstruction [641-646]. The choice of a therapeutic modality depends on the following criteria: clinical status of the patient (e.g. urosepsis); patient age; function of the upper pole; presence of reflux or obstruction of the ipsilateral or contralateral ureter; presence of bladder neck obstruction caused by ureterocele; intravesical or ectopic ureterocele; and parents' and surgeon's preferences [647]. When the diagnosis is made by ultrasound, prophylactic antibiotic treatment is indicated until a VCUG can be performed.



### 30.4.1.1 Early treatment

In the presence of febrile infection or obstruction at the bladder neck, immediate endoscopic incision or puncture of the ureterocele is recommended. In a clinically asymptomatic child with a ureterocele and a non- or hypofunctional upper pole, without significant obstruction of the lower pole and without bladder outlet obstruction, prophylactic antibiotic treatment is given until follow-up procedures are instigated.

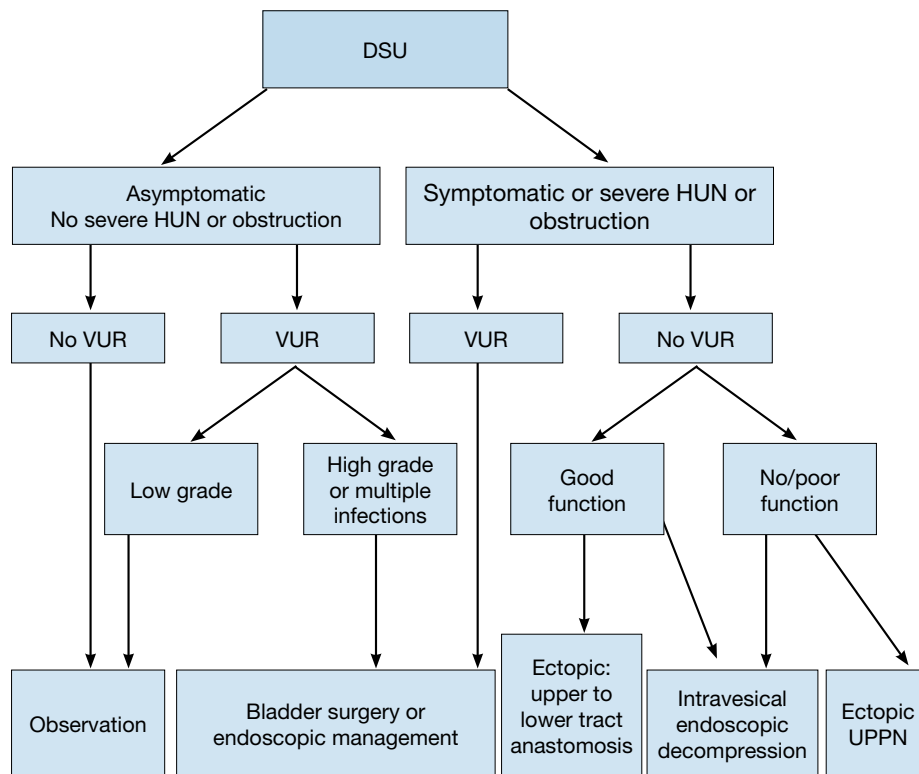
### 30.4.1.2 Re-evaluation

Conservative treatment may be adopted in asymptomatic patients without any bladder outlet obstruction, without severe hydronephrosis of the ureterocele moiety or high-grade (over grade III) reflux [647, 648].

If decompression is effective and there is no reflux (~25% of cases and more often in intravesical ureterocele), the patient is followed-up conservatively. After an endoscopic incision, most of the children with an extravesical ureterocele (50-80%) need a secondary procedure, compared with only 18% of those with an intravesical ureterocele [620]. Secondary surgery is necessary if decompression is not effective, significant reflux is present, or there is obstruction of the ipsi- or contralateral ureters, and/or bladder neck obstruction or retained ureterocele [649].

Surgery may vary from upper pole nephrectomy to complete unilateral LUT reconstruction [626, 645, 650-653]. In an ectopic ureterocele with severe hydronephrosis and without reflux, the primary upper tract approach without endoscopic decompression (partial upper-pole nephroureterectomy, pyelo/ureteropyelo/ureterostomy and upper-pole ureterectomy) gives up to an 80% chance of being the definitive treatment [647, 654].

**Figure 7: Algorithm for the management of duplex system ureteroceles after the first 3-6 months of life [647]**



DSU = duplex system ureterocele; ED = endoscopic decompression; HUN = hydronephrosis; MCUG = micturating cystourethrography; UPPN = upper pole partial nephrectomy; VUR = vesicoureteric reflux to the lower pole.

Obstruction is considered to be the presence of non-refluxing dilatation of non-ureterocele-bearing moieties (especially of the lower pole) or of an obstructive drainage pattern on diuretic renography.

### 30.4.2 Ectopic ureter

In the majority of cases, the upper pole is dysplastic and heminephro-ureterectomy should be considered. Ureteral reconstruction (ureteral reimplantation/ ureteroureterostomy/ureteropyelostomy and upper-pole ureterectomy) is a therapeutic option in cases in which the upper pole has function worth preserving. Both



procedures can be performed through an open or laparoscopic approach [655-657]. In patients with bilateral single ectopic ureters (a very rare condition), an individual approach depending on the sex and renal and bladder function is necessary. Usually the bladder neck is insufficient in these patients [658-661].

### 30.5 Conclusions and recommendations for obstructive pathology of renal duplication: ureterocele and ectopic ureter

| Conclusions  |
|--|
| Ureterocele and ectopic ureter are associated with complete renal duplication, but they also occur in a single system.   |
| In most cases, in young children (first years of life) diagnosis is done by ultrasonography.   |
| In older children clinical symptoms will prompt assessment.  |
| Management includes a conservative approach, endoscopic decompression, partial nephroureterectomy, or complete primary reconstruction. Choice of treatment will depend on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clinical status of the patient (e.g., urosepsis);</li> <li>• patient age;</li> <li>• function of the upper pole;</li> <li>• presence of reflux or obstruction of the ipsilateral or contralateral ureter;</li> <li>• presence of bladder neck obstruction caused by ureterocele;</li> <li>• intravesical or ectopic ureterocele;</li> <li>• and parents' and surgeon's preferences.</li> </ul> |

| Recommendations |           |  | LE | GR |
|-----------------|-----------|--|----|----|
| Ureterocele     | Diagnosis | Ultrasonography, radionuclide studies (MAG III/DMSA), VCUG, magnetic resonance urography, high-resolution MRI, and cystoscopy are the diagnostic tools to assess function, to detect reflux and rule out ipsilateral compression of the lower pole and urethral obstruction.   | 3  | B  |
|                 | Treatment | Choice of treatment will depend on symptoms, function and reflux as well on surgical and parenteral choices: observation, endoscopic decompression, ureteral reimplantation, partial nephroureterectomy, complete primary reconstruction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In patients (single/duplex systems) with no hydronephrosis and no symptoms, the risk for renal injury is low and conservative treatment is a good option.</li> <li>• In patients with reflux, endoscopic treatment is an option; open reimplantation especially in dilating reflux provides better results.</li> <li>• In patients with an obstructing ureterocele, early endoscopic decompression is indicated. In half to two thirds of children with an extravesical ureterocele a secondary procedure is needed (compared to 20-25% of those with an intravesical ureterocele).</li> <li>• In patients with a non-functioning moiety and symptoms, heminephrectomy is indicated.</li> </ul> | 3  | B  |
| Ectopic ureter  | Diagnosis | Ultrasound, DMSA scan, VCUG, MRI should be used for a definitive diagnosis   | 3  | B  |
|                 | Treatment | Choice of treatment option will depend on the function of the upper urinary tract: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In poorly or non-functioning moieties (hemi-) nephroureterectomy is an definite solution.</li> <li>• In patients with a functioning renal moiety, ureteral reimplantation, ureteroureterostomy and ureteropyelostomy are reliable options, especially in cases in which the upper pole has function worth preserving.</li> </ul>   | 3  | B  |

*DMSA = dimercaptosuccinic acid; MRI = magnetic resonance imaging; VCUG = voiding cystourethrography.*

## 3P DISORDERS OF SEX DEVELOPMENT

### 3P.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

The formerly called 'intersex disorders' were recently the subject of a consensus document in which it was decided that the term 'intersex' should be changed to 'disorders of sex development' (DSD) [662, 663].

The new classification has arisen because of advances in knowledge of the molecular genetic causes of abnormal sexual development, controversies inherent to clinical management and ethical issues. Controversial and pejorative terminology, e.g. 'pseudohermaphroditism' and 'hermaphroditism', have been renamed according to the new pathophysiological insights. Furthermore, some conditions presenting with severe male genital malformation, such as penile agenesis, cloacal exstrophy, which could not be categorised, have also been included. The term 'disorders of sex development' is proposed to indicate congenital conditions with atypical development of chromosomal, gonadal or anatomical sex. This will also include the idiopathic micropenis which is added here as a separate heading in this chapter on DSD.

We refer to the consensus document as a general guideline, while this chapter will focus on what is relevant for the practising paediatric urologist. As the urologist is likely to be involved in both surgical and non-surgical neonatal work, this chapter will discuss the neonatal emergency and the diagnostic and therapeutic role of the paediatric urologist.

Overall, there is a low evidence base for the published literature on DSD. There are no RCTs and most studies are based on retrospective clinical descriptive studies (LE: 4) or are expert opinion. An exception is the risk of gonadal cancer, for which the LE is higher.

DSD can present as prenatal diagnosis, neonatal diagnosis and late diagnosis. Prenatal diagnosis can be based on karyotype or ultrasound findings, neonatal diagnosis is based on genital ambiguity and late diagnosis is made on early or delayed puberty. In this guideline focus is on the neonatal presentation where the paediatric urologist plays a major role. For late diagnosis we refer to endocrinology and gynaecology guidelines on precocious and delayed puberty where paediatric urologists play a minor role [664, 665].

The diagnosis and treatment of DSD requires a multidisciplinary approach, which should include geneticists, neonatologists, paediatric and adult endocrinologists, gynaecologists, psychologists, ethicists and social workers. Each team member should be specialised in DSD and a team should have enough new patients to ensure experience.

#### 3P.1.1 *Micropenis*

Micropenis is a small but otherwise normally formed penis with a stretched length of < 2.5 SD below the mean [662, 663, 666]. Besides an idiopathic micropenis, two major causes of abnormal hormonal stimulation have been identified:

- Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism (due to an inadequate secretion of GnRH);
- Hypergonadotropic hypogonadism (due to failure of the testes to produce testosterone).

The penis is measured on the dorsal aspect, while stretching the penis, from the pubic symphysis to the tip of the glans [662]. The corpora cavernosa are palpated, the scrotum is often small, and the testes may be small and descended. Micropenis should be distinguished from buried and webbed penis, which is usually of normal size.

The initial evaluation has to define whether the aetiology of the micropenis is central (hypothalamic/pituitary) or testicular. A paediatric endocrinology work-up has to be carried out immediately. Karyotyping is mandatory in all patients with a micropenis. Endocrine testicular function is assessed (baseline and stimulated testosterone, LH and FSH serum levels). Stimulated hormone levels may also give an idea of the growth potential of the penis. In patients with non-palpable testes and hypogonadotropic hypogonadism, laparoscopy should be carried out to confirm vanishing testes syndrome or intra-abdominal undescended hypoplastic testes. This investigation can be delayed until the age of 1 year [663].

Pituitary or testicular insufficiency are treated by the paediatric endocrinologist. In patients with testicular failure and proven androgen sensitivity, androgen therapy is recommended during childhood and at puberty to stimulate the growth of the penis [667-670] (LE: 2; GR: B). In the presence of androgen insensitivity, good outcome of sexual function is questioned and gender conversion can be considered [671-673].

### 3P.2 Diagnostic evaluation

#### 3P.2.1 *The neonatal emergency*

The first step is to recognise the possibility of DSD (Table 10) and to refer the newborn baby immediately to a tertiary paediatric centre, fully equipped with neonatal, genetics, endocrinology and paediatric urology units. At the paediatric centre, the situation should be explained to the parents fully and kindly. Registering and naming the newborn should be delayed as long as necessary.

### 3P.2.1.1 Family history and clinical examination

A careful family history must be taken followed by a thorough clinical examination (Table 11).

**Table 10: Findings in a newborn suggesting the possibility of DSD (adapted from the American Academy of Pediatrics)**

|   |
|---|
| <b>Apparent male</b>  |
| Severe hypospadias associated with bifid scrotum                    |
| Undescended testis/testes with hypospadias                          |
| Bilateral non-palpable testes in a full-term apparently male infant |
| <b>Apparent female</b>  |
| Clitoral hypertrophy of any degree, non-palpable gonads             |
| Vulva with single opening   |
| Indeterminate   |
| Ambiguous genitalia   |

**Table 11: Diagnostic work-up of neonates with disorders of sex development**

|  |
|--|
| <b>History (family, maternal, neonatal)</b>  |
| Parental consanguinity   |
| Previous DSD or genital anomalies  |
| Previous neonatal deaths   |
| Primary amenorrhoea or infertility in other family members                         |
| Maternal exposure to androgens   |
| Failure to thrive, vomiting, diarrhoea of the neonate                              |
| <b>Physical examination</b>  |
| Pigmentation of genital and areolar area   |
| Hypospadias or urogenital sinus  |
| Size of phallus  |
| Palpable and/or symmetrical gonads   |
| Blood pressure   |
| <b>Investigations</b>  |
| Blood analysis: 17-hydroxyprogesterone, electrolytes, LH, FSH, TST, cortisol, ACTH |
| Urine: adrenal steroids  |
| Karyotype  |
| Ultrasound   |
| Genitogram   |
| hCG stimulation test   |
| Androgen-binding studies   |
| Endoscopy  |

*ACTH = adrenocorticotrophic hormone; FSH = follicle-stimulating hormone; hCG = human chorionic gonadotrophin; LH = luteinising hormone; TST = testosterone.*

### 3P.2.1.2 Choice of laboratory investigations

The following laboratory investigations are mandatory:

- Karyotype;
- Plasma 17-hydroxyprogesterone assay;
- Plasma electrolytes;
- Ultrasonography to evaluate the presence of Müllerian duct structures.

These investigations will provide evidence of congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), which is the most frequently occurring DSD. If this evidence is found, no further investigation is needed. If not, then the laboratory work-up should proceed further.

The hCG stimulation test is particularly helpful in differentiating the main syndromes of 46XYDSD by evaluating Leydig cell potential. When testosterone metabolism is evaluated, the presence or absence of metabolites will help to define the problem. An extended stimulation can help to define phallic growth potential and to induce testicular descent in some cases of associated cryptorchidism.

### 3P.2.2 **Gender assignment**

This is a very complicated task. It should take place after a definitive diagnosis has been made. The idea that an individual is sex-neutral at birth and that rearing determines gender development is no longer the standard approach. Instead, gender assignment decisions should be based upon:

- age at presentation;
- fertility potential;
- size of the penis;
- presence of a functional vagina;
- endocrine function;
- malignancy potential;
- antenatal testosterone exposure;
- general appearance;
- psychosocial well-being and a stable gender identity;
- sociocultural aspect;
- parental opinions.

Each patient presenting with DSD should be assigned a gender as quickly as a thorough diagnostic evaluation permits. Minimal time needed is 48 hrs. During this period any referral to gender should be avoided, better to address the patient as “the child”, “your child”.

### 3P.2.3 **Role of the paediatric urologist**

The role of the paediatric urologist can be divided into a diagnostic role and a therapeutic role (Table 12). Each of these roles will be discussed briefly.

**Table 12: Role of the paediatric urologist**

|  |
|--|
| Diagnostic role  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clinical examination</li><li>• Ultrasound</li><li>• Genitography</li><li>• Cystoscopy</li><li>• Diagnostic laparoscopy</li></ul> |
| Therapeutic role   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masculinising surgery</li><li>• Feminising surgery</li><li>• Gonadectomy</li></ul>   |

#### 3P.2.3.1 *Clinical examination*

A thorough clinical examination in a neonate presenting with ambiguous genitalia is important. As well as a accurate description of the ambiguous genitalia, some detailed information should be given on palpability and localisation of the gonads. Information gathered by the various examinations described below should help the team to come to a final diagnosis.

*Palpable gonad.* If it is possible to feel a gonad, it is almost certainly a testis; this clinical finding therefore virtually excludes 46XXDSD.

*Medical photography* can be useful but requires sensitivity and consent [674].

*Phallus.* The phallus should be measured. A cotton bud placed at the suprapubic base of the implant of the stretched phallus allows for a good measurement of phallic length.

*Urogenital sinus opening.* The opening of the urogenital sinus must be well evaluated. Is there only one opening visible? Can a hymenal ring be seen? What does the fusion of the labioscrotal folds look like; do the folds show rugae or some discolouration?

#### 3P.2.3.2 *Investigations*

*Ultrasound* can help to describe the palpated gonads or to detect non-palpable gonads. However, the sensitivity and specificity are not high. On ultrasound, the Müllerian structures can be evaluated. Is there a vagina? Are there some abdominal gonads? Is there a vaginal or utricular structure visible [675, 676]?

*Genitography* can provide some more information on the urogenital sinus. How low or how high is the confluence? Is there any duplication of the vagina? How does the urethra relate to the vagina?

*General anaesthesia.* In some cases, further examinations under general anaesthesia can be helpful. On cystoscopy, the urogenital sinus can be evaluated and the level of confluence between the bladder neck and the bladder. Cystoscopy can also be used to evaluate the vagina or utriculus, e.g. the presence of a cervix at the top of the vagina can be important information.

*Laparoscopy* is necessary to obtain a final diagnosis on the presence of impalpable gonads and on the presence of Müllerian structures. If indicated, a gonadal biopsy can be performed [677, 678].

### **3P.3 Disease management**

Referring to the consensus document [662, 663], it is clear that the timing of surgery is much more controversial than it used to be.

The rationale for early surgery includes:

- beneficial effects of oestrogen on infant tissue;
- avoiding complications from anatomical anomalies;
- minimising family distress;
- mitigating the risks of stigmatisation and gender-identity confusion [679].

However, adverse outcomes have led to recommendations to delay unnecessary surgery to an age when the patient can give informed consent. Surgery that alters appearance is not urgent. Early surgery should be reserved for those patients with high confluent urogenital tracts, girls with severely masculinised genitalia and boys with undervirilised genitals. Vaginoplasty should be delayed until puberty and milder forms of masculinisation should not be treated surgically. Recently ESPU and SPU have taken a position in the debate on surgery for DSD [680].

#### **3P.3.1 Feminising surgery**

*Clitororeduction.* Reduction of an enlarged clitoris should be done with preservation of the neurovascular bundle. Clitoral surgery has been reported to have an adverse outcome on sexual function and should therefore be limited to severely enlarged clitorises [681, 682]. Informed parental consent should be obtained. Although some techniques that conserve erectile tissue have been described, the long-term outcome is unknown [683].

*Separation of the vagina and the urethra* is preserved for high confluence anomalies. Many techniques for urogenital sinus repair have been described, but their outcome has not been evaluated prospectively [684, 685].

*Vaginoplasty* should be performed during the teenage years. Every technique (self dilatation, skin or bowel substitution) has its specific advantages and disadvantages [686]. All carry a potential for scarring that would require further surgery before sexual function was possible.

*Aesthetic refinements.* The goals of genital surgery are to maximise anatomy to allow sexual function and romantic partnering. Aesthetics are important in this perspective. The reconstruction of minor labiae from an enlarged clitoral hood is an example of aesthetic refinement.

#### **3P.3.2 Masculinising surgery**

*Hormone therapy* early in life is advocated by many doctors. The level of evidence is low for restoration of normal penile size.

*Hypospadias surgery.* See section on hypospadias (Chapter 3E).

*Excision of Mullerian structures.* In the DSD patient assigned a male gender, Müllerian structures should be excised. There is no evidence on whether utricular cysts need to be excised.

*Orchiopexy.* See section on orchiopexy (Chapter 3B).

*Phalloplasty.* The increasing experience of phalloplasty in the treatment of female to male transsexual patients has led to reports about the reliability and feasibility of this technique. It has therefore become available to treat severe penile inadequacy in DSD patients.

*Aesthetic refinements.* These include correction of penoscrotal transposition, scrotoplasty and insertion of testicular prostheses.

*Gonadectomy.* Germ cell malignancy only occurs in patients with DSD who have Y-chromosomal material. The highest risk is seen in patients with gonadal dysgenesis and in patients with partial androgen insensitivity with intra-abdominal gonads (LE: 2). Intra-abdominal gonads of high-risk patients should be removed at the time of diagnosis [687] (GR: A).

### 3P.4 Guidelines for the treatment of disorders of sex development

|  |
|--|
| Disorders of sex development (DSD) are an example of conditions for which a multidisciplinary approach is mandatory and gold standard. These children should be referred to experienced centres where neonatology, paediatric endocrinology, paediatric urology, child psychology and transition to adult care are guaranteed. |
| Any neonate presenting with ambiguous genitalia is an emergency since salt-loss in a 46XX CAH girl can be fatal.   |
| Gender assignment is imminent and should be based on multidisciplinary consensus taking into account the latest knowledge.   |
| Timing of surgery will be dependent on the severity of the condition and on the assigned sex.  |
| - In severe anomalies in girls early surgical treatment is indicated.  |
| - In less severe cases, in consultation with the parents, a more conservative approach might be followed.  |
| - In boys the surgical correction will mainly consist of hypospadias repair and orchiopexy, so the timing will follow the recommendations for hypospadias repair and orchiopexy (from 6 months onwards and before 2 years of age).   |

## 3Q POSTERIOR URETHRAL VALVES

### 3Q.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

Posterior urethral valves (PUV) are one of the few life-threatening congenital anomalies of the urinary tract found during the neonatal period. Despite optimal treatment, PUV in children may result in renal insufficiency in nearly one-third of cases [688-690]. PUV are found in 1 in 1,250 in a population undergoing foetal ultrasound screening [433]. An incidence of PUV of 1 in 5,000-12,500 live-births has been estimated [691, 692]. In one report, up to 46% of fetuses with a PUV diagnosis were terminated, indicating a possible decrease in incidence [693].

### 3Q.2 Classification systems

#### 3Q.2.1 Urethral valve

Despite recent attempts to introduce new classification terms, such as 'congenital obstructive posterior urethral membrane' (COPUM) [694], the original classification by Hugh Hampton Young remains the most commonly used [695].

Hugh Hampton Young described three categories: type I, type II and type III. However, today, only type I and type III are found to be obstructive. As type II seems to be more like a fold and not obstructive, it is no longer referred to as a valve. Hampton Young's descriptions of type I and III are as follows:

*Type I (90-95%).* 'In the most common type there is a ridge lying on the floor of the urethra, continuous with the verumontanum, which takes an anterior course and divides into two fork-like processes in the region of the bulbo-membranous junction. These processes are continued as thin membranous sheets, direct upward and forward which may be attached to the urethra throughout its entire circumference. It is generally supposed that the valves have complete fusion anteriorly, leaving only an open channel at the posterior urethral wall. Yet, the fusion of the valves anteriorly may not be complete in all cases, and at this point a slight separation of the folds exists [695].'

*Type III.* 'There is a third type which has been found at different levels of the posterior urethra and which apparently bears no such relation to the verumontanum. This obstruction was attached to the entire circumference of the urethra, with a small opening in the centre [695].'

The transverse membrane described has been attributed to incomplete dissolution from the urogenital portion

of the cloacal membrane [696]. The embryology of the urethral valves is poorly understood. The membrane may be an abnormal insertion of the mesonephric ducts into the foetal cloaca [697].

### 3Q.3 Diagnostic evaluation

An obstruction above the level of the urethra affects the whole urinary tract in varying degrees.

- The prostatic urethra is distended and the ejaculatory ducts may be dilated due to urinary reflux. The bladder neck is hypertrophied and rigid.
- The hypertrophied bladder occasionally has multiple diverticula.
- Nearly all valve patients have dilatation of both upper urinary tracts. This may be due to the valve itself and the high pressure in the bladder, or due to obstruction of the ureterovesical junction by the hypertrophied bladder.
- If there is secondary reflux, the affected kidney functions poorly in most cases.

During prenatal ultrasonography screening, bilateral hydroureteronephrosis and a distended bladder are suspicious signs of a urethral valve. Also a thick-walled bladder and a dilated posterior urethra ('keyhole' sign) make a PUV likely. In one study, however, the keyhole sign was not found to be a reliable predictor ( $p=0.27$ ) [698]. In the presence of increased echogenicity of the kidney, dilatation of the urinary tract and oligohydramnion, the diagnosis of a PUV should strongly be considered.

Voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) confirms a PUV diagnosis. This study is essential whenever there is a question of an infravesical obstruction, as the urethral anatomy is well outlined during voiding. A secondary reflux is observed in at least 50% of patients with PUV [699]. Reflux is consistently associated with renal dysplasia in patients with PUV. It is generally accepted that reflux in the renal units acts as a 'pressure pop-off valve', which would protect the other kidney, leading to a better prognosis [700]. Other types of pop-off mechanism include bladder diverticula and urinary extravasation, with or without urinary ascites [701]. However, in the long-term, a supposed protective effect did not show a significant difference compared to other patients with PUV [702, 703].

Nuclear renography with split renal function is important to assess kidney function (DMSA or MAG III). Creatinine, blood urea nitrogen and electrolytes should be monitored closely during the first few days. A nadir creatinine of 80  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  is correlated with a better prognosis [690].

### 3Q.4 Disease management

#### 3Q.4.1 Antenatal treatment

About 40-60% of PUV are discovered before birth [704]. The intrauterine obstruction leads to a decreased urine output, which could result in an oligohydramnios. Amniotic fluid is necessary for normal development of the lung and its absence may lead to pulmonary hypoplasia, causing a life-threatening problem. Intrauterine attempts have been made to treat a foetus with PUV.

As renal dysplasia is not reversible, it is important to identify those foetuses with good renal function. A sodium level below 100  $\text{mmol/L}$ , a chloride value of  $< 90\text{mmol/L}$  and an osmolarity below 200  $\text{mOsm/L}$  found in three foetal urine samples gained on three different days are associated with a better prognosis [705].

The placing of a vesicoamniotic shunt has a complication rate of 21-59%, dislocation of the shunt occurs in up to 44%, mortality lies between 33% and 43%, and renal insufficiency is above 50% [705-707]. Although shunting is effective in reversing oligohydramnios, it makes no difference to the outcome and long-term results of patients with PUV [706, 707]. The PLUTO-trial (randomised study) could not prove a benefit of placing a shunt [708].

There are few papers reporting on foetal valve treatment. However, there is little evidence for the effectiveness of these interventions. Therefore this should be considered as an experimental intervention [709].

#### 3Q.4.2 Postnatal treatment

**Bladder drainage.** If a boy is born with suspected PUV, drainage of the bladder and, if possible, an immediate VCUG is necessary. A neonate can be catheterised with a 3.5-5 F catheter. Balloon catheters are not available in this size. A VCUG is performed to see if the diagnosis is correct and whether the catheter is within the bladder and not in the posterior urethra. An alternative option is to place a suprapubic catheter, perform a VCUG and leave the tube until the neonate is stable enough to perform an endoscopic incision or resection of the valve.

**Valve ablation.** When the medical situation of the neonate has stabilised and the creatinine level decreased, the next step is to remove the intravesical obstruction. Small paediatric cystoscopes and resectoscopes are now available either to incise or to resect the valve at the 4-5, 7-8 or 12 o'clock position, or at all three positions, depending on the surgeon's preference. It is important to avoid extensive electrocoagulation,



as the most common complication of this procedure is stricture formation. One recently published study demonstrated a significant lower urethral stricture rate using the cold knife compared to diathermy [710]. Within the three months following initial treatment, a control VCUG or a re-look cystoscopy should demonstrate the effectiveness of the treatment, depending on the clinical course [711].

*Vesicostomy.* If the child is too small and/or too ill to undergo endoscopic surgery, a vesicostomy is used to drain the bladder temporarily. If initially a suprapubic tube has been inserted, this can be left in place for 6-12 weeks. Otherwise, a cutaneous vesicostomy provides an improvement or stabilisation of upper urinary tracts in over 90% of cases [712]. Although there has been concern that a vesicostomy could decrease bladder compliance or capacity, so far there are no valid data to support these expectations [713, 714].

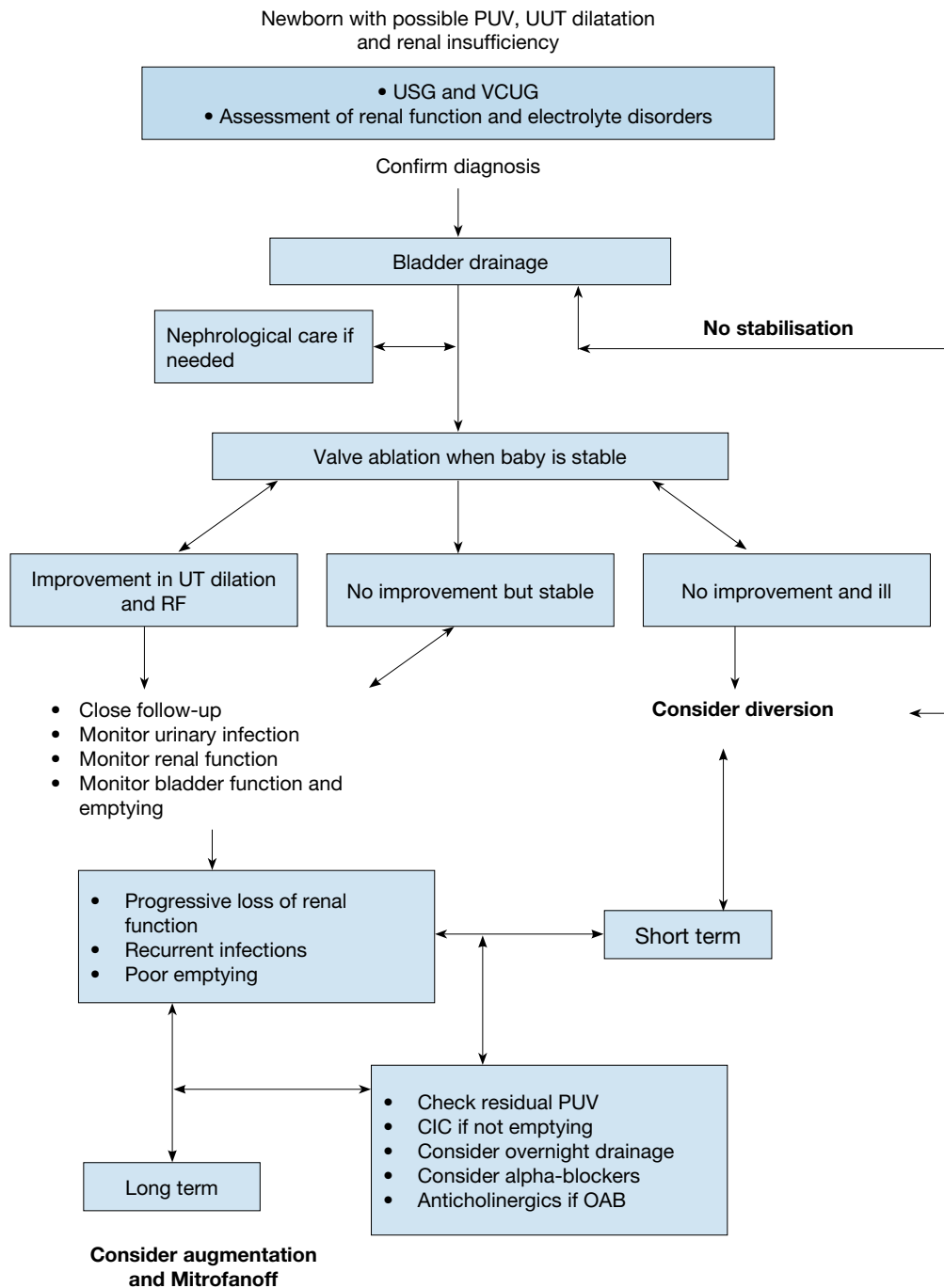
*High diversion.* If bladder drainage is insufficient to drain the upper urinary tract, high urinary diversion should be considered. Diversion may be suitable if there are recurrent infections of the upper tract, no improvement in renal function and/or an increase in upper tract dilatation, despite adequate bladder drainage. The choice of urinary diversion depends on the surgeon's preference for high loop ureterostomy, ring ureterostomy, end ureterostomy or pyelostomy, with each technique having advantages and disadvantages [715-717]. Reconstructive surgery should be delayed until the UUT has improved as much as can be expected.

Reflux is very common in PUV patients (up to 72%) and it is described bilaterally in up to 32% [718]. During the first months of life, antibiotic prophylaxis may be given especially in those with high-grade reflux [506] and in those with a phimosis, circumcision can be discussed in order to reduce the risk of urinary tract infections [719]. However, there are no randomised studies to support this for patients with PUV. High-grade reflux is associated with a poor functioning kidney and is considered a poor prognostic factor [688, 720]. However, early removal of the renal unit seems to be unnecessary, as long as it causes no problems. It may be necessary to augment the bladder and in this case the ureter may be used [721].

### **3Q.5 Follow-up**

Life-long monitoring of these patients is mandatory, as bladder dysfunction ('valve bladder') is not uncommon and the delay in day- and night-time continence is a major problem [690, 699]. Poor bladder sensation and compliance, detrusor instability and polyuria (especially at night) and their combination are responsible for bladder dysfunction. In those with bladder instability, anticholinergic therapy can improve bladder function. However, with a low risk of reversible myogenic failure (3 out of 37 patients in one study) [722, 723]. In patients with poor bladder emptying  $\alpha$ -blocker can be used to reduce the PVR urine, as demonstrated in one study with 42 patients using terazosin (mean PVR was reduced from 16 to 2 mL) [724] and in another study tamsulosin was effective [725]. Between 10% and 47% of patients may develop end-stage renal failure [688-690]. High creatinine nadir and severe bladder dysfunction are risk factors for renal replacement therapy [726]. Renal transplantation in these patients can be performed safely and effectively [727, 728]. Deterioration of the graft function is mainly related to lower urinary tract dysfunction [728, 729].

**Figure 8: An algorithm providing information on assessment, treatment and follow up of newborns with possible PUV**



CIC = clean intermittent catheterisation; OAB = overactive bladder; PUV = posterior urethral valve; RF = renal function; USG = urinary specific gravity; UT = urinary tract; UUT = upper urinary tract; VCUG = voiding cystourethrogram.

### 3Q.6 Summary

Posterior urethral valves (PUV) are one of the few life-threatening congenital anomalies of the urinary tract found during the neonatal period and despite optimal treatment result in renal insufficiency in nearly one-third of cases. Bilateral hydroureteronephrosis and a distended bladder are suspicious signs of a PUV in the neonates. A VCUG confirms a PUV diagnosis. Nuclear renography with split renal function is important to assess kidney function and serum creatinine nadir above 80  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  is correlated with a poor prognosis.

Postnatal treatment includes bladder drainage either transurethral or suprapubic and if the child is stable enough, endoscopic incision of the valve is performed. If a child is too small and/or too ill to undergo endoscopic surgery, a vesicostomy is an option for bladder drainage. If bladder drainage is insufficient to drain

the upper urinary tract, high urinary diversion should be considered.

In all patients life-long monitoring is mandatory, as bladder dysfunction is quite common and may cause progressive upper tract deterioration, if not managed properly. In the long run between 10% and 47% of patients may develop end-stage renal failure. Renal transplantation in these patients can be performed safely and effectively.

### 3Q.6.1 **Conclusions and recommendations posterior urethral valves**

| <b>PUV</b>          |   | <b>LE</b> | <b>GR</b> |
|---------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| Diagnosis           | An ultrasound can indicate a PUV, but a VCUG is required to confirm the diagnosis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Split renal function is to be assessed by DMSA scan or MAG III clearance.</li> <li>• Serum creatinine is the prognostic marker.</li> </ul>  | 3         | B         |
| Treatment antenatal | A vesico-amniotic shunt is effective in reversing oligohydramnios, but it has a relatively high complication rate. There is no difference in the renal outcome and long-term results.   | 1b        | A         |
| Treatment postnatal | After bladder drainage and stabilisation of the child, endoscopic valve ablation should be performed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In case the child is too small, a vesicostomy is an option for bladder drainage.</li> <li>• If bladder drainage is insufficient to drain the UUT, and the patient remains unstable, high urinary diversion should be considered (see Fig. 8).</li> </ul>   | 3         | B         |
| Follow-up           | Life-long monitoring is mandatory (bladder dysfunction; end-stage renal failure) in all patients. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those with serum creatinine nadir above 80 µmol/L have a poor prognosis. Despite optimal treatment 10-47% of cases develop end-stage renal failure.</li> <li>• High creatinine nadir and severe bladder dysfunction are risk factors for renal replacement therapy.</li> <li>• Renal transplantation can safely be performed if bladder function is stable.</li> </ul> | 3         | B         |

DMSA = dimercaptosuccinic acid scan; VCUG = voiding cystourethrogram.

## 3R PAEDIATRIC UROLOGICAL TRAUMA

Trauma is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in children and is responsible for more childhood deaths than the total of all other causes [730]. In about 3% of children seen at paediatric hospital trauma centres, there is significant involvement of the genitourinary tract [731]. This is caused by either blunt injuries from falls, car accidents, sports injuries, physical assault, and sexual abuse, or penetrating injuries, usually due to falls onto sharp objects or from gunshot or knife wounds.

### 3R.1 Paediatric renal trauma

#### 3R.1.1 **Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology**

In blunt abdominal trauma, the kidney is the most commonly affected organ, accounting for about 10% of all blunt abdominal injuries [730].

Children are more likely than adults to sustain renal injuries after blunt trauma because of their anatomy. Compared to an adult kidney, a child's kidney is larger in relation to the rest of the body and often retains foetal lobulations, so that blunt trauma is more likely to lead to a local parenchymal disruption. The paediatric kidney is also less well protected than the adult kidney. Children have less perirenal fat, much weaker abdominal muscles, and a less ossified and therefore much more elastic and compressible thoracic cage [732].

Blunt renal trauma is usually a result of sudden deceleration of the child's body, particularly due to sport accidents, falls, and contact with blunt objects. Deceleration or crush injuries result in contusion, laceration or avulsion of the less well-protected paediatric renal parenchyma.

### 3R.1.2 Classification systems

Renal injuries are classified according to the kidney injury scale of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (Table 13) [733].

**Table 13: Renal injury classified according to the kidney injury scale of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma [733]**

| Grade | Type of injury | Description  |
|-------|----------------|--|
| I     | Contusion      | Microscopic or gross haematuria                          |
|       | Haematoma      | Normal urological studies                                |
| II    | Haematoma      | Non-expanding subcapsular haematoma                      |
|       | Laceration     | Laceration of the cortex of < 1.0 cm                     |
| III   | Laceration     | Laceration > 1.0 cm without rupture of collecting system |
| IV    | Laceration     | Through the cortex, medulla and collecting system        |
|       | Vascular       | Vascular injury  |
| V     | Laceration     | Completely shattered kidney                              |
|       | Vascular       | Avulsion of the renal hilum                              |

### 3R.1.3 Diagnostic evaluation

In a child who has sustained blunt abdominal trauma, renal involvement can often be predicted from the history, physical examination and laboratory evaluation. Renal involvement may be associated with abdominal or flank tenderness, lower rib fractures, fractures or vertebral pedicles, trunk contusions and abrasions, and haematuria.

#### 3R.1.3.1 Haematuria

Haematuria may be a reliable finding. In severe renal injuries, 65% suffer gross haematuria and 33% microhaematuria, while only 2% have no haematuria at all [734].

The radiographic evaluation of children with suspected renal trauma remains controversial. Some centres rely on the presence of haematuria to diagnose renal trauma, with a threshold for renal involvement of 50 RBCs/HPF. Although this may be a reliable threshold for significant micro-haematuria in trauma, there have been many reports of significant renal injuries that manifest with little or even no blood in the urine [735]. It is therefore compulsory to consider all the clinical aspects involved, including the history, physical examination, consciousness of the child, overall clinical status and laboratory findings to decide on the diagnostic algorithm and whether or not a child needs further imaging studies.

#### 3R.1.3.2 Blood pressure

It is important to consider that children, unlike adults, are able to maintain their blood pressure, even in the presence of hypovolaemia, due to compliance of the vascular tree and mechanisms for cardiac compensation [736].

Because blood pressure is an unreliable predictor of renal involvement in children, some centres recommend imaging of the urinary tract in children with any degree of haematuria following significant abdominal trauma.

#### 3R.1.3.3 Choice of imaging method

Nowadays, computed tomography (CT) is the best imaging method for renal involvement in children. CT scanning is the cornerstone of modern staging of blunt renal injuries especially when it comes to grading the severity of renal trauma

CT scanning is quite rapid and usually performed with the injection of contrast media. To detect extravasation, a second series of images is necessary since the initial series usually finishes 60 seconds after injection of the contrast material and may therefore fail to detect urinary extravasation [737].

In acute trauma ultrasound may be used as a screening tool and for reliably following the course of renal injury. However, ultrasound is of limited value in the initial and acute evaluation of trauma. The standard IVP is a good alternative imaging method if a CT scan is not available. It is superior to ultrasound but not as good as CT scanning for diagnostic purposes.

### 3R.1.4 Disease management

The modern management of trauma is multidisciplinary, requiring paediatricians, emergency physicians, surgeons, urologists, and other specialties as required.

Non-surgical conservative management with bed rest, fluids and monitoring has become the

standard approach for treating blunt renal trauma. Even in high-grade renal injuries, a conservative approach is effective and recommended for stable children. However, this approach requires close clinical observation, serial CT scans, and frequent re-assessment of the patient's overall condition.

Absolute indications for surgery include persistent bleeding into an expanding or unconfined haematoma. Relative indications for surgery are massive urinary extravasation and extensive non-viable renal tissue [738].

**3R.1.5 Recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of paediatric renal trauma**

| Recommendations   | GR |
|---|----|
| Imaging is recommended in all children who have sustained a blunt or penetrating trauma with any level of haematuria, especially when the history reveals a deceleration trauma, direct flank trauma or a fall from a height. | B  |
| Rapid spiral CT scanning is the cornerstone in the diagnostic work-up and allows accurate staging.  | B  |
| Most injured kidneys can be managed conservatively.   | B  |
| Haemodynamic instability and a Grade V renal injury are absolute indications for surgical intervention.   | A  |

**3R.2 Paediatric ureteral trauma**

Injuries to the ureter are rare. The ureter is well protected; the upper part is protected by its close approximation to the vertebral column and paraspinal muscles and the lower part by its route through the bony pelvis. In addition, the ureter is a small target, and both flexible and mobile. This also means that ureteral injuries are caused more often by penetrating trauma than blunt trauma [739]. Since the ureter is the sole conduit for urinary transport between the kidney and the bladder, any ureteral injury can threaten the function of the ipsilateral kidney.

**3R.2.1 Diagnostic evaluation**

Since there are no classical clinical symptoms suggestive of ureteral trauma, it is important to carry out a careful diagnostic work-up using different imaging modalities. Unfortunately, initial imaging studies, such as IVP and routine CT scans, are unreliable; a study of 11 disruptions of the ureteropelvic junction found that 72% had a normal or non-diagnostic IVP on initial studies [739]. Diagnostic accuracy of CT scanning can be improved by performing a delayed CT scan up to 10 minutes after injection of the contrast material [740]. The most sensitive diagnostic test is a retrograde pyelogram.

Quite a few patients present several days after the injury, when the urinoma produces flank and abdominal pain, nausea and fever.

Because the symptoms may often be quite vague, it is important to remain suspicious for a potential undiagnosed urinary injury following significant blunt abdominal trauma in a child.

**3R.2.2 Disease management**

Immediate repair during abdominal exploration is rare. Minimally invasive procedures are the method of choice, especially since many ureteral injuries are diagnosed late after the traumatic event. Percutaneous or nephrostomy tube drainage of urinomas can be successful, as well as internal stenting of ureteral injuries [741].

If endoscopic management is not possible, primary repair of partial lacerations should be followed by internal stenting. The management of complete lacerations, avulsions or crush injuries depends on the amount of ureter lost and its location. If there is an adequate healthy length of ureter, a primary ureteroureterostomy can be performed. If primary re-anastomosis is not achievable, distal ureteral injuries can be managed using a psoas bladder hitch, Boari flap or even nephropexy. Proximal injuries can be managed using transureteroureterostomy, autotransplantation or ureteral replacement with bowel of appendix [742].

### 3R.2.3 Recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of paediatric ureteral trauma

| Recommendations  | GR |
|--|----|
| Retrograde pyelogram is the most sensitive diagnostic method and is the method of choice. However, in the initial phase of an injury, it is very likely that ureteral injuries will not be detected by routine imaging methods, including contrast-enhanced spiral CT. | A  |
| Endoscopic treatment is the method of choice, such as internal stenting or drainage of a urinoma, either percutaneously or via a nephrostomy tube.   | B  |
| For distal and proximal ureteral injuries, open procedures are the methods of choice.  | B  |
| For distal injuries, they include direct re-anastomosis and ureteroneocystostomy.  | B  |
| For proximal injuries, they include transureteroureterostomy, ureteral replacement with bowel or appendix, or even autotransplantation.  | B  |

### 3R.3 Paediatric bladder injuries

The paediatric bladder is less protected than the adult bladder, and is therefore more susceptible to injuries than the adult bladder, especially when it is full, due to:

- The paediatric bladder has a higher position in the abdomen and is exposed above the bony pelvis.
- The abdominal wall provides less muscular protection.
- There is less pelvic and abdominal fat surrounding the bladder to cushion it in trauma.

Blunt trauma is the most common cause of significant bladder injury. In adults, bladder injury is often associated with pelvic fractures. This is less common in children because the paediatric bladder sits above the pelvic ring. Thus, only 57% of children with pelvic fractures also had a bladder injury compared to 89% of adults [743].

#### 3R.3.1 Diagnostic evaluation

The characteristic signs of bladder injury are suprapubic pain and tenderness, an inability to urinate, and gross haematuria (95% of injuries). Patients with a pelvic fracture and gross haematuria present with a bladder rupture in up to 45% of cases [744].

The diagnosis of bladder rupture can be difficult in some cases. The bladder should be imaged both when fully distended and after drainage using standard radiography or a CT scan. The best results can be achieved by retrograde filling of the bladder using a catheter. Despite advances in CT imaging, the bladder must still be filled to capacity to accurately diagnose a possible bladder injury [745].

Blunt injuries to the bladder are categorised as:

- Contusions with damage to the bladder mucosa or muscle, without loss of bladder wall continuity or extravasation, or,
- Ruptures, which are either intraperitoneal or extraperitoneal.

Intraperitoneal bladder ruptures are more common in children because of the bladder's exposed position and the acute increase in pressure during trauma. These cause the bladder to burst at its weakest point, i.e. the dome.

Extraperitoneal lesions occur in the lower half of the bladder and are almost always associated with pelvic fractures. A cystogram will show extravasation into the perivesical soft tissue in a typical flame pattern and the contrast material is confined to the pelvis.

#### 3R.3.2 Disease management

Contusions usually present with varying degrees of haematuria and are treated with catheter drainage alone.

##### 3R.3.2.1 Intraperitoneal injuries

The accepted management of intraperitoneal bladder ruptures is open surgical exploration and primary repair.

Post-operative drainage with a suprapubic tube is mandatory. Recent data suggest that transurethral drainage may be as effective, with fewer complications, resulting in shorter periods of diversion [746]. Usually, after about 7-10 days, a repeat cystogram is performed to ensure healing is taking place properly.

##### 3R.3.2.2 Extraperitoneal injuries

Non-operative management with catheter drainage for 7-10 days alone is the method of choice for extraperitoneal bladder rupture. However, if there are bone fragments within the bladder, these must



be removed and the bladder must then be repaired and drained, according to the principles for treating intraperitoneal ruptures [747].

**3R.3.3 Recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of paediatric bladder injuries**

| Recommendations   | GR |
|---|----|
| Retrograde cystography will allow for an accurate diagnosis, provided that the bladder has been filled full to its capacity and an additional film is taken after drainage. | A  |
| Extraperitoneal bladder ruptures are usually managed conservatively with a transurethral catheter left in place for 7-10 days.  | A  |
| Intraperitoneal bladder ruptures require immediate surgical exploration and repair as well as postoperative drainage for 7-10 days.   | A  |

**3R.4 Paediatric urethral injuries**

Except for the penile part of the urethra, the paediatric urethra is quite well protected. In addition, its shape and elasticity mean the urethra is seldom injured by trauma. However, a urethral injury should be suspected in any patient with a pelvic fracture or significant trauma to the perineum until confirmed otherwise by a diagnostic work-up.

**3R.4.1 Diagnostic evaluation**

Patients with suspected urethral trauma and pelvic fractures usually present with a history of severe trauma, often involving other organ systems.

Signs of urethral injury are blood at the meatus, gross haematuria, and pain during voiding or an inability to void. There may also be perineal swelling and haematoma involving the scrotum.

A rectal examination to determine the position and fixation of the prostate is important in any male with a suspected urethral injury. The prostate, as well as the bladder, may be displaced up out of the pelvis, especially in membranous urethral trauma.

Radiographic evaluation of the urethra requires a retrograde urethrogram. It is important to expose the entire urethral length, including the bladder neck. If a catheter has already been placed by someone else and there is suspected urethral trauma, the catheter should be left in place and should not be removed. Instead, a small infant feeding tube can be placed into the distal urethra along the catheter to allow the injection of contrast material for a diagnostic scan [748].

**3R.4.2 Disease management**

Since many of these patients are unstable, the urologist's initial responsibility is to provide a method of draining and monitoring urine output.

A transurethral catheter should only be inserted if there is a history of voiding after the traumatic event, and if a rectal and pelvic examination, as described above, has not suggested a urethral rupture. If the catheter does not pass easily, an immediate retrograde urethrogram should be performed.

A suprapubic tube may be placed in the emergency department percutaneously, or even in the operating room, if the patient has to undergo immediate exploration because of other life-threatening injuries.

There are often no associated injuries with a bulbous urethral or straddle injury and management is therefore usually straightforward. In these cases, a transurethral catheter is the best option for preventing urethral bleeding and/or painful voiding [749].

The initial management of posterior urethral injuries remains controversial, mainly regarding the long-term results with primary realignment compared to simple suprapubic drainage with later reconstruction. The main goals in the surgical repair of posterior urethral injuries are:

- Providing a stricture-free urethra.
- Avoiding the complications of urinary incontinence and impotence.

Suprapubic drainage and late urethral reconstruction was first attempted because immediate surgical repair had a poor outcome, with significant bleeding and high rates of incontinence (21%) and impotence in up to 56% of cases [750]. In adults, a study of the success rates of delayed repair reported re-structure rates of 11-30%, continence rates of 90-95% and impotence rates of 62-68% [751]. However, in children, there is much less experience with delayed repair. The largest paediatric series of delayed repair in 68 boys reported a success rate of 90% [752]. Another study reported strictures and impotence in 67% of boys, although all the boys were continent [751].

An alternative to providing initial suprapubic drainage and delayed repair is primary realignment of the urethra via a catheter. The catheter is usually put in place during open cystostomy by passing it from either the bladder neck or meatus and through the injured segment. In a series of 14 children undergoing this

procedure, this resulted in a stricture rate of 29% and incontinence in 7% [753].

### 3R.4.3 Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of paediatric trauma

| Recommendations  | GR |
|--|----|
| Imaging of the urethra with a retrograde urethrogram is mandatory in suspected urethral trauma.  | A  |
| Rectal examination is recommended to determine the position of the prostate.   | B  |
| Bulbous urethral injuries can usually be managed conservatively with a transurethral catheter.   | B  |
| There is still controversy about the optimal management for posterior urethral disruption. The options include primary reconstruction; primary drainage with a suprapubic catheter alone and delayed repair; primary re-alignment with a transurethral catheter. | C  |

## 3S POST-OPERATIVE FLUID MANAGEMENT

### 3S.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

It is often stated that children are not simply small adults. Children are growing and developing organisms, with specific metabolic features. Compared to adults, children have a different total body fluid distribution, renal physiology and electrolyte requirements, as well as weaker cardiovascular compensation mechanisms [754]. As children are developing, they have a high metabolic rate and low fat and nutrient stores, which means they are more susceptible to metabolic disturbances caused by surgical stress [755]. The metabolic response to anaesthesia and surgery in infants and children is related to the severity of the operation [756].

### 3S.2 Disease management

#### 3S.2.1 Pre-operative fasting

Pre-operative fasting has been advocated for elective surgery to avoid the complications associated with pulmonary aspiration during induction of anaesthesia. Table 14 gives the current guidelines for pre-operative fasting for elective surgery [757, 758].

**Table 14: Pre-operative fasting times for elective surgery**

| Ingested material | Minimum fasting period (h)               |
|-------------------|--|
| Clear liquids     | 2  |
| Breast milk       | 4  |
| Infant formula    | 4 (< 3 months old) to 6 (> 3 months old) |
| Non-human milk    | 6  |
| Light meal        | 6  |

Although hypoglycaemia is an important issue in children, research has shown that hypoglycaemia is uncommon if children are still fed up to 4 h before the induction of anaesthesia [759]. Newborns often have low glycogen stores and impaired gluconeogenesis, both of which can be helped by limiting the period of preoperative starvation and feeding with glucose-containing solutions. It is important to monitor blood glucose and to adjust the glucose supply continuously in neonates and those children who are small for their age, as this helps to prevent excessive fluctuation in blood glucose levels [760].

#### 3S.2.2 Maintenance therapy and intra-operative fluid therapy

Generally, the anaesthetist is responsible for intra-operative management and the surgeon is responsible for post-operative instructions. The goal of intra-operative fluid management is to sustain homeostasis by providing the appropriate amount of parenteral fluid; this maintains adequate intravascular volume, cardiac output and oxygen delivery to tissues at a time when normal physiological functions have been altered by surgical stress and anaesthetic agents [760].

The fluids for maintenance therapy replace losses from two sources: insensible (evaporation) and urinary loss. They do not replace blood loss or third-space fluid loss into the interstitial space or gut. The main formulae for calculating the daily maintenance requirement for water have not changed in the past 50 years (Table 15) [761]. Calculations have shown that anaesthetised and non-anaesthetised children have similar fluid requirements [762].

The combination of maintenance fluid and electrolyte requirements results in a hypotonic electrolyte solution. The usual intravenous maintenance fluid given to children by paediatricians is one-quarter to one-third strength saline [763].

**Table 15: Hourly and daily fluid requirements according to body weight**

| Body weight | Hourly                   | Daily                       |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| < 10 kg     | 4 mL/kg                  | 100 mL/kg                   |
| 10-20 kg    | 40 mL + 2 mL/kg; > 10 kg | 1000 mL + 50 mL/kg; > 10 kg |
| > 20 kg     | 60 mL + 1 mL/kg; > 20 kg | 1500 mL + 20 mL/kg; > 20 kg |

The fasting deficit is calculated by multiplying the hourly maintenance fluid requirement by the number of hours of fluid restriction. It is recommended that 50% of the fasting deficit is replaced in the first hour and 25% in the second and third hours [764]. Berry (1986) proposed simplified guidelines for fluid administration according to the child's age and severity of surgical trauma [765] (Table 16).

**Table 16: Intra-operative fluid management adapted for children fasted for 6-8 h, following the classical recommendation 'nil per oral after midnight'**

| Furman, et al. [764]      |  |                             |   |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Hour of fluid replacement | Maintenance fluid  | Fasting deficit replacement | Persistent losses   |
| First hour                | As Table 14  | 50%                         | Third space + blood loss replacement  |
| Second hour               |  | 25%                         |   |
| Third hour                |  | 25%                         |   |
| Berry [765]               |  |                             |   |
| First hour                | ≤ 3 years: 25 mL/kg<br>≥ 4 years: 15 mL/kg   |                             | Blood replacement 1:1 with blood or colloid<br><b>or</b><br>3:1 with crystalloids |
| All other hours           | Maintenance volume = 4 mL/kg/h<br>Maintenance + mild trauma = 6 mL/kg/h<br>Maintenance + moderate trauma = 8 mL/kg/h<br>Maintenance + severe trauma = 10 mL/kg/h |                             | Blood replacement 1:1 with blood or colloid<br><b>or</b><br>3:1 with crystalloids |

\* Reduce the amount of fluid given during the first hour if children are fasting for a shorter period of time, or if the child was already being given intravenous fluid prior to surgery.

Five percent dextrose with one-quarter- to half-normal saline is often used as a maintenance fluid, while balanced salt solution or normal saline is used as replacement fluid. Blood losses are replaced with a 1:1 ratio of blood or colloid or a 3:1 ratio of crystalloid. However, the administration of a large volume of normal saline can cause dilutional acidosis or hyperchloremic acidosis, while a large volume of balanced salt solution, such as lactated Ringer's solution, can decrease serum osmolality, which is not beneficial in patients with decreased intracranial compliance. If appropriate, albumin, plasma, synthetic colloids, and blood should be administered [760].

Third-space losses may vary from 1 mL/kg/h for a minor surgical procedure to 15-20 mL/kg/h for major abdominal procedures, or even up to 50 mL/kg/h for surgery of necrotising enterocolitis in premature infants. Third-space losses should be replaced with crystalloids (normal saline or Ringer's lactate) [758].

Most of the fluids required during surgery are needed to replace fasting deficit or third-space losses, which are mainly extracellular fluids. Hydrating solutions should contain high concentrations of sodium and chloride and low concentrations of bicarbonate, calcium and potassium.

Intra-operative hypoglycaemia is rare in children. In contrast, hyperglycaemia is commonly encountered during anaesthesia and surgery. The replacement fluid should be free of dextrose or should not have > 1% dextrose. Current recommendations include the use of low-dextrose-containing solutions for maintenance fluid therapy, except in patients who are at high risk of hypoglycaemia [754, 763]. Intra-operative administration of glucose-free isotonic hydrating solutions should be the routine practice for most procedures in children over 4-5 years of age. In infants and young children, 5% dextrose solutions should be avoided, but it is appropriate to use 1% or 2% dextrose in lactated Ringer's solution [758].

### 3S.2.3 **Post-operative fluid management**

During the post-operative period, the fundamental principle is to monitor gastrointestinal function and to continue oral or enteral nutrition as much as possible [755], while remembering that withholding oral fluids post-operatively from children undergoing day surgery helps prevent vomiting [766]. In minor surgical procedures, intra-operative administration of large volumes of crystalloids is associated with a reduced incidence of post-operative nausea and vomiting after anaesthesia in both paediatric and adult patients [767]. Berry's fluid replacement guidelines can be followed, provided the child is given lactated Ringer's solution or polyionique B66, which has an osmolarity similar to plasma [768].

It is not obligatory to check serum chemistry after uncomplicated surgery in children with normal pre-operative renal and hepatic function. However, if oral intake has been postponed for > 24 h (e.g. as in intestinal surgery), there is an increased risk of electrolyte abnormalities, requiring further assessment and subsequent management, particularly with potassium. Post-operative findings, such as decreased bowel movements and ileus, may be signs of hypokalemia, which may be corrected with a solution of 20 mmol/L potassium and an infusion rate of not more than 3 mmol/kg/day. The potassium should be given via peripheral venous access if the duration of infusion is not expected to exceed 5 days, or via central venous access when long-term parenteral nutrition is necessary.

The goals of fluid therapy are to provide basic metabolic requirements and to compensate for gastrointestinal and additional losses. If hypovolemia is present, it should be treated rapidly. Hyponatremia is the most frequent electrolyte disorder in the post-operative period [768, 769]. This means that hypotonic fluid should not be routinely administered to hospitalised children because they have several stimuli for producing arginine vasopressin and are therefore at high risk for developing hyponatremia [758, 768, 770-773]. The preferred fluids for maintenance therapy are 0.45% saline with dextrose or isotonic fluids, in the absence of a specific indication for 0.25% saline. It is also advisable to administer isotonic fluids intra-operatively and also immediately post-operatively, albeit at two-thirds of the calculated maintenance rate in the recovery room. Fluid composition should balance high sodium requirements, energy requirements and solution osmolarity. The extra losses from gastric or chest tubes should be replaced with lactated Ringer's solution. Fluid that has been given to dilute medications must also be taken into account [758].

Children who undergo interventions to relieve any kind of obstructive diseases deserve particular attention, especially the risk of polyuria due to post-obstructive diuresis. In children who develop polyuria, it is important to monitor fluid intake and urine output, as well as renal function and serum electrolytes.

If necessary, clinicians should not hesitate in consulting with a paediatric nephrologist.

### 3S.2.4 **Post-operative fasting**

It has been reported that fasting reduces the risk of vomiting by up to 50% [766, 774, 775]. However, a study found that if children were freely allowed to drink and eat when they felt ready or requested it, the incidence of vomiting did not increase and the children felt happier and were significantly less bothered by pain than children who were fasting [776]. The mean times until first drink and first eating in the children who were free to eat or drink were 108 and 270 min, respectively, which were 4 h and 3 h earlier than in the fasting group.

Previous studies have suggested that gastric motility returns to normal 1 h after emergence from anaesthesia in children who have undergone non-abdominal surgery [777]. The first oral intake in children at 1 h after emergence from anaesthesia for minor surgery did not cause an increase in the incidence of vomiting, provided that the fluid ingested was at body temperature [778]. The EAU Panel members therefore recommend encouraging an early intake of fluid in children who have undergone minor or non-abdominal urological surgery.

## 3S.3 **Summary conclusions and recommendations**

| <b>Conclusion</b>   | <b>LE</b> |
|---|-----------|
| Children are not simply smaller physiological versions of adults. They have their own unique metabolic features, which must be considered during surgery. | 2         |

| <b>Recommendations</b>   | <b>GR</b> |
|--|-----------|
| Pre-operative fasting periods for elective surgeries (up to 4 h) can be shorter than normally used.  | B         |
| Care should be taken for hyperglycaemia, which is common in children, compared to intra-operative hypoglycaemia, which is very rare. Fluids with lower dextrose concentrations should therefore be considered. | B         |
| Avoid the routine use of hypotonic fluid in hospitalised children because they are at high risk of developing hyponatremia.  | A         |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| There is an increased risk of electrolyte abnormalities in children undergoing surgery. It is therefore essential to measure the baseline and daily levels of serum electrolytes, glucose, urea and/or creatinine in every child who receives intravenous fluids, especially in intestinal surgery (e.g. ileal augmentation), regardless of the type of solution chosen. | B |
| In patients treated with minor surgical procedures, early oral fluid intake should be encouraged.  | A |

## 3T POST-OPERATIVE PAIN MANAGEMENT IN CHILDREN: GENERAL INFORMATION

### 3T.1 Epidemiology, aetiology and pathophysiology

The provision of adequate pain control requires proper pain evaluation, accurate choice of drug and route of administration, and consideration of age, physical condition and type of surgery and anaesthesia [779]. However, there is still no standardised algorithm for management of post-operative pain in children [780]. There is an urgent need for a post-operative pain management protocol in children, particularly for guidance on the frequency of pain assessment, use of parenteral opioids, introduction of regional anaesthesia, and the application of rescue analgesics [781].

Traditional medical beliefs that neonates are incapable of experiencing pain have now been abandoned following recent and better understanding of how the pain system matures in humans, better pain assessment methods and a knowledge of the clinical consequences of pain in neonates [782-786]. Many studies have indicated that deficient or insufficient analgesia may be the cause of future behavioural and somatic sequelae [787-791]. Our current understanding of pain management in children depends fully on the belief that all children, irrespective of age, deserve adequate treatment.

### 3T.2 Diagnostic evaluation

Assessment of pain is the first step of pain management. Validated pain assessment tools are needed for this purpose and it is important to select the appropriate pain assessment technique. Several pain assessment tools have been developed according to the child's age, cultural background, mental status, communication skills and physiological reactions [792, 793].

One of the most important topics in paediatric pain management is informing and involving the child and parents during this process. Parents and patients can manage post-operative pain at home or in hospital if provided with the correct information. Parents and patients, if they are old enough, can actively take part in pain management in patient-family-controlled analgesia applications [794-799].

### 3T.3 Disease management

#### 3T.3.1 Drugs and route of administration

Pre-emptive analgesia is an important concept that aims to induce the suppression of pain before neural hypersensitisation occurs [800]. Local anaesthetics or non-steroidal analgesics are given intra-operatively to delay post-operative pain and to decrease post-operative analgesic consumption. Analgesics must be titrated until an appropriate response is achieved. Opioids can be administered to children by the oral, mucosal, transdermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular or intravenous routes [796]. The combination of opioids with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or local anaesthetics (balanced or multimodal analgesia) can be used to increase the quality of analgesia and decrease undesired effects related to opioids [801]. The same combination of local anaesthetics, opioids, and non-opioid drugs used in adults can also be used in children taking into account their age, body weight and individual medical status.

The World Health Organization's 'pain ladder' is a useful tool for the pain management strategy [802]. A three-level strategy seems practical for clinical use. Post-operative management should be based on sufficient intra-operative pre-emptive analgesia with regional or caudal blockade followed by balanced analgesia.

Paracetamol and NSAIDs are the drugs of choice at the first level. As they become insufficient to prevent pain, weak and strong opioids are added to oral drugs to achieve balanced analgesia. Every institute must build their own strategy for post-operative analgesia. A proposed strategy for post-operative analgesia may be as follows:

1. Intra-operative regional or caudal block
2. Paracetamol + NSAID
3. Paracetamol + NSAID + weak opioid (e.g. tramadol or codeine)
4. Paracetamol + NSAID + strong opioid (e.g. morphine, fentanyl, oxycodone or pethidine)

Table 17: List of several drugs used in post-operative pain management in children [783, 791, 795, 860-862]

| Name                   | Route of administration                                   | Dose  | Side effects   | General remarks  | Caution   |
|------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Non-narcotics</b>   |   |   |  |  |   |
| Acetaminophen          | Rectal  | 40 mg/kg loading, 20 mg/kg/dose 4 times/day   | Nephrotoxicity, hepatotoxicity (neonates)  | Most common used analgesic<br>Antipyretic effect<br>Opioid-sparing effect<br>Wide safety range | Slow onset time and variable absorption via the rectal route; dividing the vehicle is not recommended.<br>Total dose should not exceed: 100 mg/kg for children; 75 mg/kg for infants; 60 mg/kg for term and preterm neonates > 32 weeks post-conceptual age; and 40 mg/kg for preterm neonates < 32 weeks post-conceptual age |
|                        | Oral  | 15-40 mg/kg, followed by 30 mg/kg/8 h   |  |  |   |
|                        | Intravenous   | Propacetamol (prodrug)  |  |  |   |
| Ibuprofen              | Oral, rectal  | 4-10 mg/kg/dose 3-4 times/day   |  | Better analgesic than paracetamol  | Safety not established for infants < 6 months old   |
| Diclofenac             | Tablet, syrup, suppository                                | 1-1.5 mg/kg 2-3 times/day   | Nephrotoxicity, gastrointestinal disturbances  | Better than ibuprofen  | > 6 years old   |
| Ketorolac              | Oral, IV, IM  | 0.2-0.5 mg/kg every 6 h (48 h)<br>Total dose < 2 mg/kg/day, maximum 5 days  |  | Opioid-sparing effect  |   |
| Ketamine               | Oral, rectal, IM, SC, IV, intraspinal                     | < 2 mg/kg (IM)<br>< 1 mg/kg (IV, epidural)  |  |  |   |
| Metamizole, dipyrone   | Oral, IM<br>Oral drop                                     | 10-15 mg/kg/dose (max 40 mg/kg total)<br>10-15 mg/kg<br>1 drop/kg/dose, up to 4 times/day   | Risk of agranulocytosis, not clarified definitely  | Very effective antipyretic   | Not approved in some countries including USA, Sweden, Japan and Australia   |
| <b>Narcotics</b>       |   |   |  |  |   |
| Opioids                |   |   | Nausea, vomiting, dyspepsia, constipation, urinary retention, respiratory depression, drowsiness, euphoria |  |   |
| Tramadol (weak opioid) | Oral, rectal, IV, IM (dose can be repeated 4-6 times/day) | 2-3 mg/kg/dose (oral, drop)<br>1-2 mg/kg/dose (oral, tablet)<br>1.5-3 mg/kg/dose (rectal)<br>0.75-2 mg/kg/dose (IM)<br>2-2.5 mg/kg/dose (IV)<br>0.1-0.25 mg/kg/h (continuous) | Nausea, vomiting, pruritus and rash  | Does not inhibit prostaglandin synthesis   | An IM injection is not recommended.<br>Slow IV infusion.<br>Be careful in patients taking psychoactive medications and with seizures  |



|                                      |             |   |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---|---|---|---|
| Codeine                              | Oral        | 1 mg/kg, single dose  | Respiratory depression not seen after single dose             | Both antitussive and analgesic effect   |   |
| Morphine                             | IM, IV      | 6-12 months:<br>0.1 mg/kg, IM<br>0.05 mg/kg, IV   |   | Most commonly used opioid, but not the most suitable opioid for pain relief in children | IM injection not recommended < 2 months old: be careful |
| Nalbuphine                           | IV          | < 3 months old: 0.05 mg/kg/dose<br>> 3 months old: 0.05-0.10 mg/kg/dose (4-6 times/day)   |   |   |   |
| Piritramide                          | IV          | 0.05-0.10 mg/kg/dose (4-6 times/day)  |   |   |   |
| Dextromethorphan                     | Oral, syrup | 1 mg/kg   |   |   |   |
| Pethidine/meperidine                 | IM, IV      | 1.5-2 mg/kg IM as premedicant<br>1 mg/kg IV as analgesic  | No advantage over morphine                                    |   |   |
| Fentanyl                             | IV          | 1-2 µg/kg   |   |   |   |
| Buprenorphine                        | IV          | 3-5 mg/kg   |   |   |   |
| Pentazocine                          | IV, IM      | 1 mg/kg IM<br>0.5-0.75 mg/kg IV   | In small infants, observe respiration after IV administration |   |   |
| <b>Regional (local) anaesthetics</b> |             |   |   |   |   |
| Bupivacaine                          |             | Maximum single bolus dose: 2.5-3.0 mg/kg<br>Maximum infusion: 0.4-0.5 mg/kg/h (10-20 mg/kg/day) in older infants and children; 0.2-0.25 mg/kg/h (5-6 mg/kg/day) in neonates | Cardiotoxicity, convulsion                                    |   |   |
| Levobupivacaine                      | IV, IM      | 0.2-0.25% 1-2.5 mg/kg for single-shot epidural 0.2-0.4 mg/kg/h for IV continuous administration   | Less toxic than bupivacaine                                   |   |   |
| Ropivacaine                          | IV, IM      | 0.2-0.25% 1-2.5 mg/kg for single-shot epidural 0.2-0.4 mg/kg/h for IV continuous administration   | Less toxic than levobupivacaine                               |   |   |

### 3T.3.2 **Circumcision**

Circumcision without anaesthesia, irrespective of age, is not recommended. Circumcision requires proper pain management [803]. Despite this, adequate pain management is still below expectation [804]. Potential analgesic interventions during circumcision include the use of a dorsal penile nerve block (DPNB) or ring block, topical anaesthetics (e.g. lidocaine-prilocaine cream, or 4% liposomal lidocaine cream), a less painful clamp (e.g. Mogen clamp), a pacifier, sucrose, and swaddling, preferably in combination [805-809].

Although DPNB and topical anaesthetics seem to have a similar post-operative analgesic effect, DPNB is still the most preferred method [810] (LE: 1a). Ultrasonographic guidance may improve the results, with an increase in procedural time [811, 812]. Caudal blockade methods have similar efficacy compared to DPNB. However, parents should be informed about the more frequent incidence of post-operative motor weakness and micturition problems [813-818].

### 3T.3.3 **Penile, inguinal and scrotal surgery**

Caudal block is the most studied method for analgesia following surgery for hypospadias. Several agents with different doses, concentrations and administration techniques have been used with similar outcomes [819-833]. Both single and combined use of these agents is effective [820, 821, 823, 824, 829, 831].

Penile blocks can be used for post-operative analgesia and have similar post-operative analgesic properties as caudal blocks [834]. Two penile blocks at the beginning and end of surgery seems to provide better pain relief [835]. Severe bladder spasms caused by the presence of the bladder catheter may sometimes cause more problems than pain and is managed with antimuscarinic medications.

For inguinoscrotal surgery, all anaesthetic methods, such as caudal blocks [307, 836-838], nerve block [839, 840], wound infiltration or instillation, and irrigation with local anaesthetics [841-843], have been shown to have adequate post-operative analgesic properties. Combinations may improve the results [844].

### 3T.3.4 **Bladder and kidney surgery**

Continuous epidural infusion of local anaesthetics [845-847], as well as systemic (intravenous) application of analgesics [848], has been shown to be effective. Ketorolac is an effective agent that is underused. It decreases the frequency and severity of bladder spasms and the length of post-operative hospital stay and costs [837, 849-852].

Open kidney surgery is particularly painful because all three muscle layers are cut during conventional loin incision. A dorsal lumbotomy incision may be a good alternative because of the shorter post-operative hospital stay and earlier return to oral intake and unrestricted daily activity [853].

Caudal blocks plus systemic analgesics [854], and continuous epidural analgesia, are effective in terms of decreased post-operative morphine requirement after renal surgery [855, 856]. However, when there is a relative contraindication to line insertion, a less experienced anaesthetist is available, or parents prefer it [857], non-invasive regimens composed of intra-operative and post-operative analgesics may be the choice. Particularly in this group of patients, stepwise analgesia protocols can be developed [858]. For laparoscopic approaches, intraperitoneal spraying of local anaesthetic before incision of the perirenal fascia may be beneficial [859].

**Table 18: A simple pain management strategy for paediatric urological surgery**

| Intensity of surgery                  | First step   | Second step | Third step   |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| Mild<br>(inguinal, scrotal, penile)   | Paracetamol and wound infiltration with local anaesthetics | NSAIDs      | Regional block/weak opioid or IV strong opioid with small increments as rescue analgesia (e.g. nalbuphine, fentanyl, meperidine, morphine) |
| Moderate<br>(lower abdominal)         |  |             | Peripheral nerve block (single shot or continuous infusion)/opioid injection (IV PCA)  |
| Severe (upper abdominal or lombotomy) |  |             | Epidural local/major peripheral nerve/plexus block/opioid injection (IV PCA)   |

IV PCA = intravenous patient-controlled analgesia.

### 3T.4 Conclusions and recommendations

| Conclusions   | LE |
|---|----|
| Neonates experience pain.   | 3  |
| Pain may cause behavioural and somatic sequelae.  | 3  |
| Every institute must develop their own well-structured strategy for post-operative analgesia. | 4  |

| Recommendations  | GR |
|--|----|
| Pain must be prevented/treated in children of all ages.  | B  |
| Pain must be evaluated by age-compatible assessment tools.   | B  |
| Patients and parents must be informed accurately.  | B  |
| Pre-emptive analgesia is important and balanced analgesia should be used in order to decrease the side effects of opioids. | B  |

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## 5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Paediatric Urology Guidelines Panel have provided disclosure statements on all relationships that they have that might be perceived to be a potential source of a conflict of interest. This information is publically accessible through the European Association of Urology website. This Guidelines document was developed with the financial support of the EAU. No external sources of funding and support have been involved. The EAU is a non-profit organisation, and funding is limited to administrative assistance and travel and meeting expenses. No honoraria or other reimbursements have been provided.