

HOW WIDE URETHRA SHOULD WE PRODUCE?

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Introduction The neourethra in hypospadias should be a continuation of the proximal one both in size and structure. So far, most surgical techniques have been aimed at adding a lacking urethral tube to the external orifice. We believe, that similarly to anorectal malformations, the normal urethra ends up where its normal structure disappears at the division of corpus spongiosum. Thus the width of the urethra at that point should be regarded as a reference for reconstruction..

Aim What is the correct size of an individually tailored neourethra.

Subjects and methods 82 patients aged 10 months - 16 yrs consecutively admitted for primary hypospadias repair were examined. In all 2 measurements of the external meatus were performed with the meatus intact and after incising the hypoplastic wall down to the bifurcation of corpus spongiosum. Hegar dilators were introduced up to the largest size without causing resistance or bleeding. The penis was inspected for hypoplastic urethra. Comparison of the size of the external meatus prior and after incision was compared with normal values from literature.

Results In 41 patients (50%) the division of corpus spongiosum was proximal to the external meatus which was incised in the midline. After incision, the width increased considerably in most of the patients from mean 2.97 +/-1.107 mm SD to mean 4.17 +/- 0,742 mm SD after incision. Mean size of the external meatus in healthy boys was 3,87 +/-0,3 mm SD.

A hypoplastic ventral wall was more common in distal – 95.2%, than in middle and proximal forms, 34.7% and 30.8% respectively. In comparison with normal it was the size of the urethra after incision which was closer to normal. In 15 patients in whom the incision did not result in urethral widening its width was constantly within normal. In only one it was stenosed.

Conclusions The width of urethra meatus at division of corpus spongiosum should be regarded as a reference size for reconstruction

Own controls are needed to better assess demographic differences in size of external meatus

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