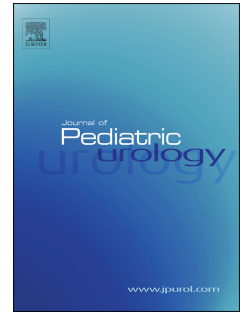


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Hypospadias surgery in England: higher volume centres have lower complication rates

David J. Wilkinson, Patrick A. Green, Shanthi Beglinger, Jessica Myers, Rachel Hudson, David Edgar, Simon E. Kenny



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Hypospadias surgery in England: higher volume centres have lower complication rates

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**Summary Introduction:** Hypospadias surgery has progressed steadily over recent years.

There remains considerable variation in the operative management of boys with hypospadias in the UK, and it is therefore difficult to identify acceptable standards with regards to reoperation rates.

*Objective:* To determine the frequency of reoperations and complications from all centres performing hypospadias surgery in England and to identify variables that influence outcome.

*Methods:* All children undergoing NHS hypospadias surgery in England between 1999 and 2009 were identified using the Hospital Episode Statistics database. Patient demographics, centre type, and associated diagnostic (ICD-10) and treatment codes (OPCS4.6) were collected for both primary repairs and postoperative complications. Centres were classed as high volume if they performed an average of 20 or more operations a year. Operative complications were split into revisions (repeat repairs), repairs of urethral fistulae, repairs of meatal stenosis, or urethral stricture repairs. Statistical analysis included logistic regression, Spearman's correlation, and Mann-Whitney *U* for non-parametric data, with  $p < 0.05$  taken as significant. Data are presented as median (interquartile range) unless otherwise stated.

*Results:* 17,554 children underwent a total of 23,962 operations at 75 centres in England during the study period. The median age at primary repair was 21 (15–38) months. The

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