

Name of Operation: **Nephro-ureterectomy**
(removal of a kidney, and most of its ureter
[the tube which drains urine from that kidney to the bladder]).

Main issues:

- Wound across the upper tummy on either side:
- Dissolving stitches (no need to remove).
- Often a drainage-tube (“catheter”) in the bladder is needed for several days.
- Likely post-operative schedule and recovery-time.

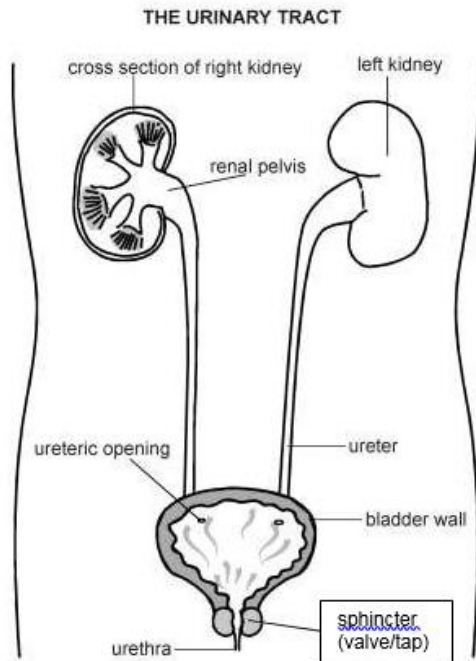


Intended benefits:

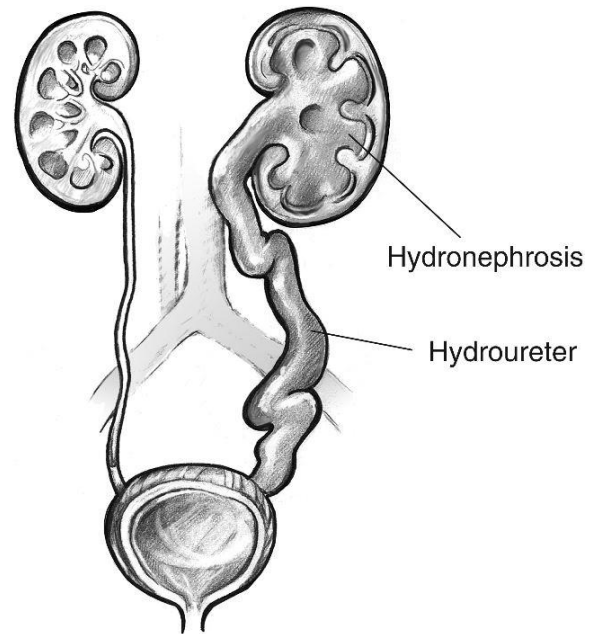
- Removal of tissue that is causing harm and doing no good.
- To reduce (but unfortunately not completely get rid of) the risk of urine infections, kidney stones, and high blood-pressure.

Common or serious risks:

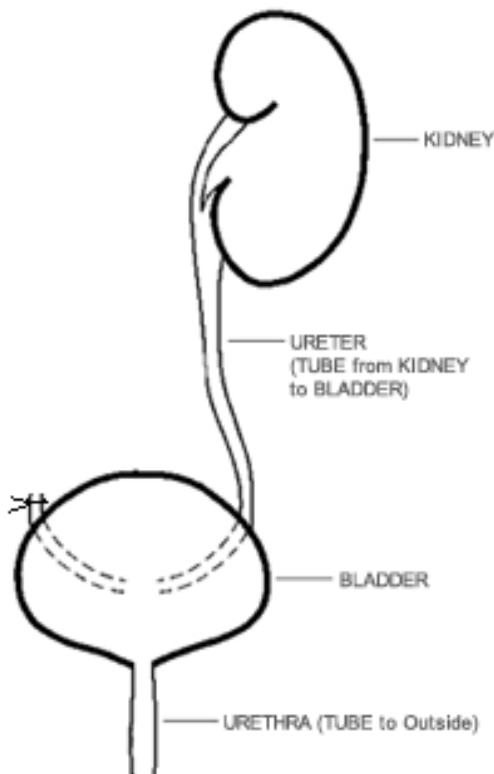
- Overall success-rate of about 19 out of 20 children (95 %).
- Bleeding (rarely serious, but occasionally a blood transfusion is needed).
- Infection: usually prevented by the antibiotics given in hospital, by drinking plenty for a while afterwards, and by the preventative antibiotics your child may already be on. If you are worried later at home, a urine sample should be checked for infection via your family-doctor or, if your child is very unwell, via your local hospital (sometimes such an infection can be quite serious). Rarely, the wound may also become infected.
- Damage to the rest of the ureter (urine-tube from that kidney to the bladder), or to the bladder: unlikely to be serious, but occasionally further surgery may be needed.
- Damage to the bowel, liver, or spleen: rare, but could be serious and need surgery.
- Damage to the sperm-tube in a boy: rare, and should not affect his future fertility.
- Early leak of urine from the lower part of same ureter (usually settles with catheter).
- On-going infections in the remaining bit of the bottom of the ureter (that cannot be safely removed from this higher wound). In about 1 in 20 children (5 %), a later second operation, via a new lower wound, is needed to remove the rest of this ureter.
- On-going urine infections or high blood-pressure, often for other reasons despite a technically successful operation. Further surgery may be needed.
- Poor healing of the wound: unusual, but very occasionally may need later surgery.
- Anaesthetic problems (rarely serious, but around 1 in 250,000 general anaesthetics in children can be fatal).



1. A diagram of normal waterworks
(based on www.fermelumic.com/urinary.html#)



2. A diagram of a stretched and damaged kidney and ureter
(from <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/news/media-library/7683>)



3. A diagram of the waterworks after removal of a kidney and most of its ureter
(adapted from www.birdvilleschools.net)