Antibiotic prophylaxis in hypospadias repair: It’s time to re-evaluate

Niki Kanaroglou, MD, FRCSC
Palm Beach Pediatric Urology, Palm Beach County, FL

While it seems like a straightforward issue to address, hypospadias represents a spectrum of abnormalities, and surgeon preferences are as varied as the condition itself. There are multiple variables at play – the severity of the defect, preoperative testosterone, surgical approach, the placement of a stent, open or closed drainage, and the use of postoperative antibiotics, just to name a few. When one considers that antibiotic use may also affect rates of fistula, dehiscence and meatal stenosis, the question gains greater significance and becomes still more complex.

A large prospective study with multivariate analysis would be the ideal way to glean more complete answers. It is a daunting endeavour, which may partly explain why we have been content with established practice patterns without much fuss. At least one multi-institutional randomized double-blinded study is underway to definitively address the value of antibiotics for hypospadias repair. In the meantime, Baillargeon and colleagues have primed us for a potential change in culture, which may result in shedding the antibiotic “security blanket” as hypospadias surgery continues to evolve.

Competing interests: Dr. Kanaroglou declares no competing financial or personal interests.

References

Correspondence: Dr. Niki Kanaroglou, Palm Beach Pediatric Urology, 10301 Hagen Ranch Road, C130, Boynton Beach, FL 33437, nkanaroglou@gmail.com