

## PATIENT AND FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET

### *Pyloric Stenosis*

#### What is pyloric stenosis?

- It is a narrowing of the muscle at the end of the stomach. This muscle controls how food moves from the stomach into the small intestine. The muscle is called the “pylorus.”
- When this muscle becomes thicker than normal (*hypertrophied*), the opening between the stomach and small intestine becomes too narrow for food or liquids to move through. This leads to more vomiting than normal.

#### How do I know if my baby has pyloric stenosis?

*Here are some of the symptoms your baby may have:*

- Forceful vomiting, especially after feeds.
- The vomit is formula or breast milk.
- Vomiting may be less at first, but will start to occur more often and become more forceful in nature.
- No amount of burping or formula changes makes it better.
- Your baby seems to be hungry even after vomiting.
- If left untreated, weight loss and dehydration develop.

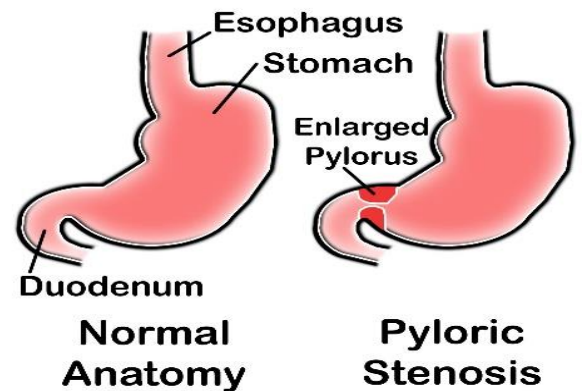


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#### How is pyloric stenosis treated?

- The treatment for pyloric stenosis is usually surgery.

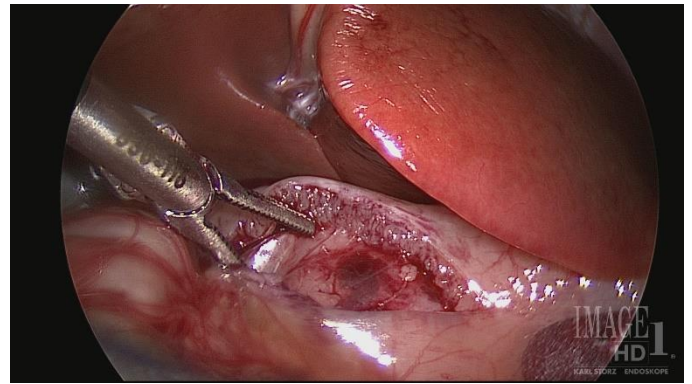
*What happens before surgery?*

- Your baby will be admitted to the hospital.
- Your baby will not be able to have anything to drink before surgery.
- Your baby will receive intravenous (IV) fluids before surgery.
- Blood tests are needed:
  - The main blood test the surgery team will be monitoring is called a BMP (electrolytes). Often, in babies with pyloric stenosis, this blood test is abnormal. This must be normal before your baby is safe to have surgery.
- Once your baby is wetting their diapers well and their blood test is normal, they will be ready for surgery.
  - It may take a few days for this to happen.

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### *What happens during surgery?*

- The surgery will usually be performed *laparoscopically*. This means that the surgeon will make 3-4 small cuts on the baby's abdomen and then cut the tight muscle which then allows the stomach to empty as it should.
- The surgery typically lasts about an hour.



### **What happens after surgery?**

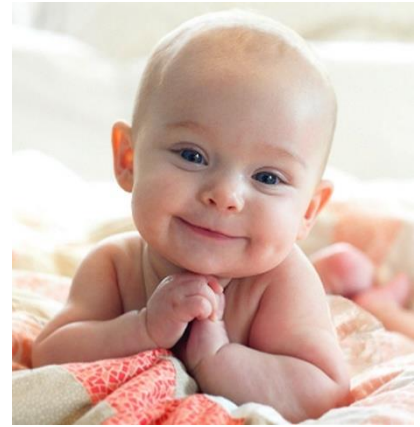
- *When can I be with my baby again?*  
As soon as your baby wakes up after surgery, you will be able to be with them.
- *When can my baby eat again?*  
Your surgeon will tell you when your baby may begin eating again but typically it will be soon after surgery.
  - Please make sure you try to burp the baby after every ½ ounce of milk or after 5 minutes of breast feeding.
  - Spitting up after surgery is common, even some vomiting.  
This will get better and go away in a few days.
- *Will my baby have any pain?*  
Your baby will have very little pain after surgery. They will be given acetaminophen to help with any pain if needed.



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### When can we go home?

- Most babies go home the day after surgery.
- Goals to going home:
  - Eating at least 2 ounces at every feed or breastfeeding normally.
  - Little or no vomiting (spitting up is OK).
  - Pain well controlled with acetaminophen.



### How do I care for my baby at home?

- Your baby may continue to spit up or vomit with feedings.
  - This usually gets better in a few days.
- You may continue to give acetaminophen as needed for pain.
- Your baby won't need to go home on any special medications.
  - If they were taking medicines for reflux, your surgeon may recommend you continue these for a couple of weeks.
- Your baby will be able to have sponge baths. Your surgeon will tell you when you can start bathing your child normally again.

### When should I call the office?

*If your baby experiences any of the following, please call our office:*

- Vomiting after every feeding
- Fever (temperature more than 100.5°F (38.0°C))
- Signs of infection at one of the surgical sites (redness, swelling, yellow drainage)

*Your baby will need to follow up with the surgeon.*

*You will receive specific instructions for follow up when your baby is discharged.*

Please don't hesitate to call our office if you have any problems or concerns.

Surgical provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Number: \_\_\_\_\_

After hours number, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for allowing us to care for your child.***