

# DIVISION OF UROLOGY

Hartford | Farmington | Glastonbury | Fairfield | Danbury

## Deflux Procedure

### What is a Deflux Procedure?

A Deflux procedure is one way that a surgeon can fix some types of vesicoureteral reflux. Vesicoureteral reflux, or VUR, is when urine goes backwards up to the kidneys from the bladder (see vesicoureteral reflux handout). In a Deflux procedure, a material known as Deflux is injected into the space where the ureter, the tube that carries urine from the kidney, meets the bladder. This acts as a “speed bump” to stop urine from going back up into the kidney.

Deflux is a sterile gel made of biodegradable materials that are naturally found in the body (dextranomer and hyaluronic acid). The material is safe: it is not made from animal parts, it does not transmit diseases or cause allergic reactions, and it stays where it is injected. Over time, some of the material dissolves and it is replaced with normal body tissue that creates a permanent bulge in the bladder at the opening of the ureter.

### What happens the day of the procedure?

Your child’s doctor will discuss if Deflux is a good treatment option for your child. The procedure does involve the child going to sleep under anesthesia. Once he or she is completely asleep a tiny camera called a cystoscope is inserted through the urethra (the tube the pee comes out of) and then a small amount of Deflux gel is injected into the bladder wall next to the ureteral opening. The procedure usually takes about 30 minutes and your child will be able to go home that day. Afterwards pee is able to flow from the kidney into the bladder but the pee is blocked from going back up the ureter into the kidney.

### What are the risks of Deflux?

This is a procedure that requires anesthesia and does have some risks. These include mild bleeding, infection, blockage of the ureters, and possible failure of treatment.

### **What are the benefits of Deflux?**

It is a less involved procedure than reimplantation and can be useful in low grade VUR.

### **How effective is a Deflux procedure?**

The success rate for Deflux varies on the severity of the reflux, and it can range from 30 percent to greater than 90 percent. The procedure can always be repeated a second time and if that doesn't work, re-implantation is still possible. Multiple Deflux procedures will not prevent or complicate later surgeries.

### **What can I expect afterwards?**

The bladder and urethra will be irritated after the procedure. This may last 24-48 hours. Your child might be some blood in the urine or mild discomfort with peeing.

### **How do I care for my child?**

Immediately after the procedure your child should rest. They will probably feel fine the next day and be able to resume normal activities. Your child should drink lots of fluids and try to urinate often. He or she might need to pee in the bath or shower if that makes them more comfortable.

### **When should I call the doctor?**

If your child is not peeing or having severe pain with peeing or has a fever over 101 °F. The Division of Urology at Connecticut Children's can be reached at (860) 545-9395.