Bladder extrophy

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A newborn male presented with bladder extrophy, a condition in which the abdominal wall and underlying structures, including the ventral wall of the bladder, fail to fuse in utero. As a result, the lower urinary tract is exposed, and the everted bladder appears through the abdominal opening (*Figure 1*).

It is a rare congenital defect occurring in 1 in 35 000 live births and having a 2:1 male:female preponderance (Rickwood, 1997). Associated are an anteriorly-placed anus, downwardly displaced umbilicus, and in males there is complete epispadias (where the urethra is open the entire length of the dorsal penis). Inguinal herniae and occasionally testicular maldescent can occur. Primary anomalies of the upper renal tracts or of other systems are rare.

Primary bladder closure was performed in the neonatal period and secondary bladder neck reconstruction planned in the future. HM

Rickwood AMK (1997) Congenital disorders of the bladder. In: Urological Disease in the Fetus and Infant: Diagnosind and Management. Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford: 250–63

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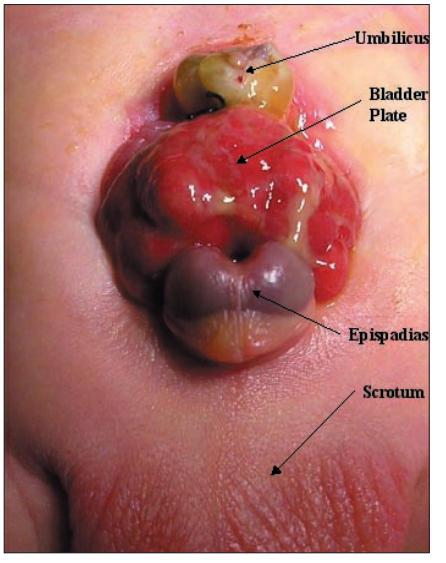

Figure 1. Exposed bladder plate and epispadias in bladder extrophy.