

## What's Up in Urology Journal, Autumn 2011?

*Urol J. 2011;8:335.*  
[www.uj.unrc.ir](http://www.uj.unrc.ir)

*Urology for People* is a section in the *Urology Journal* for providing people with a summary of what is published in this journal and describing urological entities in a simple language.

**Important Note.** The findings in medical papers are usually not directly applicable in clinical practice and patients should consult their physicians before any utilization of the results of medical studies.

### EPISPADIAS

Epispadias is a rare congenital defect of the penis, in which the urethra ends in an opening on the upper aspect of the penis. However, it is possible for the urethra to be open along the entire length of the penis. The problem can also include the urethra, bladder, and large intestine. The prevalence of epispadias is 1 in 117 000 newborn boys and 1 in 484 000 newborn girls. The condition is usually diagnosed at birth or shortly thereafter. In females, the mons pubis is often deficient; the clitoris is bifid with divergent labia superiorly. The goals of surgical procedures are to correct the curvature, reconstruct the missing portion of the urethra, and restore the normal aspect of the external genitalia.

Surgical repair is usually successful at achieving continence.

*See page 328 for full-text article*

### VARICOCELE

Varicocele is a dilatation of the veins within the scrotum, the loose bag of the skin that holds man's testicles. A varicocele is similar to a varicose vein that can occur in the leg. It is a fairly common condition, affecting 15% of men overall and 40% of men with known infertility. Varicoceles occur most often in the left testicle. The varicocele occurs when the valves within the veins along the spermatic cord do not work properly. Varicoceles develop slowly and may not have any symptoms. Symptoms can include enlarged, twisted veins in the scrotum, painless testicle lump, scrotal swelling, or bulge within the scrotum, and infertility. The sudden appearance of a varicocele in an older man may be caused by a kidney tumor, which can block blood flow to a vein. Treatment is by varicocelectomy, the surgical correction of a varicocele, which is performed on an outpatient basis.

*See page 298 for full-text article*