Pyelectasis

What is pyelectasis?
When the area of the kidney called the renal pelvis is a little enlarged, it is called Pyelectasis. When it is even more enlarged it is called hydronephrosis.

What causes the renal pelvis to be enlarged?
- An immature kidney.
- A narrowing or block in the ureter.
- Backward flow of urine from the bladder into the ureter when peeing. This is called vesicoureteral reflux.

What are the symptoms and how is it found?
There is no pain or symptoms with pyelectasis. It is found during an ultrasound either during pregnancy or after birth.

What treatment does my baby need?
- A baby with pyelectasis does not need special treatment before birth. More prenatal ultrasounds may be done to check the size of the renal pelvis.
- After birth, most babies with pyelectasis will be seen by a kidney specialist. Your baby’s doctor will let you know who your baby should to see.
- An ultrasound of the kidney will be done several weeks after birth. This is called a renal ultrasound. It is done to see if the size of the renal pelvis is the same, larger or smaller. Other tests may be done to see how the kidneys are working or to look for the cause of pyelectasis. Babies with a narrow or blocked ureter or vesicoureteral reflux may need more tests. Your doctor will discuss what tests your baby needs and when they should be done.
- Most often, pyelectasis gets better over time. Most babies will not need surgery. Regular doctor visits, renal ultrasounds and blood pressure checks are important for your baby. If surgery is needed, your doctor will explain how and when it should be done.

**ALERT:** Call your child’s doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has:
- Any signs of a urinary tract infection like fever, fussiness, not eating as usual, vomiting or bad smelling urine.
- Special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

*This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.*