

Medical Center

(804) 828- 3042

In the tradition of the Medical College of Virginia

Getting Ready for Pediatric Plastic Surgery

Be at the hospital 2 hours before your surgery time.

Eating Before Surgery

- Your child can eat food or have a bottle up to 6 hours before surgery. This means if surgery is planned for 7:30 AM, the last meal should be finished by 1:30 AM.
- You can give your child clear liquids or breast milk up to 3 hours before surgery. Examples of clear liquids are apple juice, Pedialyte, koolaid, jello, and water.

What to Bring to the Hospital

- Wear comfortable clothes and leave any valuables at home.
- Photo ID is needed.
- Favorite blankets, stuffed animals, toys, music CD's will help comfort your child. CD players are available.
- If your baby uses special bottles or nipples bring them with you.
- You do not need to bring diapers or formula.

Where to Park

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- The closest and easiest choice is valet parking - \$5 per day
- If you don't mind a short walk, you may self-park in the Visitor's Parking Deck -\$2 per day. (Don't forget to validate your parking ticket at the information desk at the Gateway Building or Ambulatory Care Center).

Preparing for Surgery

- Your child will change into a hospital gown.
- Any final paperwork will be completed.
- You will talk with your child's pediatric anesthesiologist. This is the doctor who gives your child the medicine used to put your child to sleep before the surgery and keeps your child safe and comfortable during the operation.

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During Your Child's Surgery

- You will get a pager – you do not have to sit in the waiting room. Eat breakfast or take a walk around the hospital.
- The nurse in the operating room will call you to let you know when the operation starts. The nurse will call you every hour during the operation to give you updates.
- Dr. Rhodes will talk with you once your child is safely in the recovery room.
- After a period of time, your child will be moved to a hospital room. You will be with your child as soon as possible.

What to Expect After Pediatric Plastic Surgery

In The Hospital

- Your child may be fussy upset, or crying when he awakes. This is normal.
- Your child will be given medicine to make sure he or she is comfortable.

Eating After Surgery

- Your child may not eat or drink as much as usual for a few days.

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- He is allowed to eat and drink the same way as before the surgery. Bottles with any type of nipples, cups and baby spoons are safe to use
- Dr. Rhodes does not recommend “no-no’s” or any type of arm restraints.
- Using a pacifier is OK.

Getting Back to Normal

- Make sure you have Children’s Tylenol and Children’s Ibuprofen at home.
- Some children have trouble sleeping through the night after surgery. For the first few days, give your child lots of love and understanding. After a week or so, many parents try to re-establish their child’s pre-surgery routine.

Do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions or concerns 804-828-3042

Jennifer L. Rhodes, M.D.

Ruth Trivelpiece, M.Ed.