

Anal Atresia

FACTS:

- Anal atresia affects 1 in 5,000 births and is slightly more common in boys. There is no known cause for this condition.
- With anal atresia, any of the following can occur:
 - ⇒ The anal passage may be narrow or not in the normal location.
 - ⇒ A membrane may be present over the anal opening.
 - ⇒ The rectum (the end of the colon) may not connect to the anus (the opening where stool exits the body).
 - ⇒ The rectum may connect to part of the urinary tract or the reproductive system through a passage called a fistula, and an anal opening is not present.
- Approximately 50% of babies with anal atresia have other medical problems. Some of the most common problems are with the spine, kidneys and urinary tract, heart, trachea and esophagus and limb defects.



There is no known cause for anal atresia.



Children with anal atresia can lead very happy lives post surgery!



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TREATMENT:

- **Most children with anal atresia require surgery.**
- **After surgery children will need to receive anal dilatations. This is done to enlarge the opening gradually.**
- **Some children will become constipated and require a high fiber diet and the use of laxatives prior to potty training.**
- **Children with anal atresia can usually be successfully toilet trained. Many children gain bowel control more slowly.**
- **Depending on the type of malformation and the surgical repair, some children may not have good bowel control. Some specialized hospitals offer bowel management classes to help a child be in control.**



Diets high in fiber are helpful to kids with this condition.



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