

# I can tell you what happens after surgery.

After surgery, your child will be brought to the **Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)** on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Main Building. Parents can always visit. Other family can visit between 9 am and 9 pm. Sometimes staff may ask visitors to leave the room for a short time.

The PICU has specially trained staff and equipment to respond quickly if a problem occurs. After surgery, your child will wake up in the PICU and stay there for one or two days.

## Here is what you might see:

- After surgery, your child may be sleepy for several days.
- Your child will have a large dressing covering the wound from the surgery for several days. This will be changed when needed. Your child will have a scar across the belly.
- Your child will have a breathing tube, and will not be able to talk or make sounds.
- When your child is awake enough to breathe without help, the tube will be removed.
- Your child may look puffy. Your child's body is holding the fluid given during surgery. This is called **edema** and will go away in time.
- Your child will have a tube going through the nose into the stomach (called a **Nasogastric** or **NG Tube**). Medicine is given through this tube. It is usually removed a few days after surgery.
- Your child will have a tube to drain urine from the bladder, called a **catheter**. All the fluid your child gets and puts out is measured, to make sure the kidneys are working well.
- Your child will have several IVs, one in or near the neck, used to give medicine and fluid.

- Your child will have several bulb-like drains (called **Jackson Pratt drains**, or **JPs**) near the incision. These collect blood and fluid from around the liver. These will be removed a few days after surgery.
- Visitors may need to wear a gown the first few days after surgery.

Your child will get medicine to prevent blood clots from forming in the vessels going to and from the liver. We will draw blood to find out how well the liver is working.

Once a day, a group of doctors and nurses will come to your child's bedside to talk about your child's condition and plans for care. We want you to join them to listen and ask questions. This is called **Daily Rounds**.

**Disclaimer**

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.