

## CATHETERIZATION OF A PATIENT WITH A SEVERELY BURIED PENIS USING A FLEXIBLE CYSTOSCOPE

### Introduction

Buried penis is a condition first described in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and was used to describe a penis of generally normal size that lacked the normal sheath of skin and was located below the integumen of the abdomen, thigh and scrotum.

The condition is more common in children and usually presents in neonates and obese pre-pubertal boys. Occasionally the condition can present in adults and can occur in both circumscribed and non-circumscribed individuals.

Apart from cosmesis, a buried penis can present as a problem in term of urethral catheterization. In most cases the condition is not so severe as to completely obscure the external urethral meatus. We describe a morbidly obese patient, referred to us for urethral catheterization to monitor urinary output with a severely buried penis.

A 35 year old man was referred to us from the medical department because of a difficult urethral catheterization. He was admitted to hospital for a community acquired pneumonia and had septicemia.

To monitor urinary output the medical team needed a urinary catheter but the patient also complained of some difficulty voiding on admission to hospital and this formed another indication for catheterization.

Repeated attempts at urethral catheterization failed as the external urethral meatus was so buried that a Foleys catheter could not be directed blind into the meatus.

### Design

The procedure of catheterization over a guide-wire using a flexible cystoscope was recorded and a short review of the problems encountered in a patient with a severely buried penis

### Results

On examination, the patient was morbidly obese with an approximate weight of 180kg. His vital signs were stable and on inspection of his external genitalia there was no penile shaft seen whatsoever. He was subsequently catheterized successfully over a guide-wire using a flexible cystoscope, as shown in the video presentation.

### Conclusion

Catheterization of a patient with a severely buried penis can present a challenge, and the use of a flexible cystoscope with catheterization over a guide-wire can provide a useful solution to a potentially difficult problem.

### References

1. Shou-Hung Tang et al; Modern Management of Adult-Acquired Buried Penis; UROLOGY 72: 124–127, 2008. © 2008 Elsevier Inc.

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<b><i>What were the subjects in the study?</i></b>	<b>HUMAN</b>
<b><i>Was this study approved by an ethics committee?</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>
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<b><i>Was the Declaration of Helsinki followed?</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b><i>Was informed consent obtained from the patients?</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>