

Meet Our Surgical Team



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Mary Bridge Children's Hospital & Health Center

HOSPITAL

317 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way
Tacoma, WA 98405
253.403.1400

HEALTH CENTER

311 South L Street
3rd Floor, West Wing
Tacoma, WA 98405
253.403.4613 or 800.552.1419 ext. 4613
Fax: 253.403.1641

Regional Mary Bridge Health Centers

253.403.4613 or 800.552.1419 ext.4613
Fax: 253.403.1641

TACOMA

311 South L Street
3rd Floor – West Wing
Tacoma, WA 98405

OLYMPIA

3504 12th Ave. NE
Olympia, WA 98506

PUYALLUP

1803 South Meridian
Suite B
Puyallup, WA 98371

SILVERDALE

1780 NW Myhre Road
Suite G220
Silverdale, WA 98383

Pediatric Surgery: Liver and Spleen Injury



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& Health Center**
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The Pediatric Difference

At Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, we know that parents of children needing surgical care are often anxious and have many questions. Our experienced team of pediatric surgeons and experts are focused on helping you and your child feel comfortable through this experience. Please review the following information about your child's condition and treatment and ask questions at any time.

LIVER AND SPLEEN INJURY

The liver or spleen may be injured with sport accidents, a motor vehicle incident, or with play such as a fall from a monkey bar. At the time of the trauma, the liver or spleen may "crack" and have bleeding inside the organ, or the covering of the spleen or liver may tear, or rupture, resulting in bleeding inside the abdomen.

Signs and symptoms

- Pain on the right side of the abdomen or right shoulder may occur when liver is injured
- Pain on the left side of the abdomen or left shoulder may be present when the spleen is injured
- Some children will hold the abdomen (stomach area) and complain of pain
- The abdomen (stomach area) may feel firm when touched (guarding)
- Your child may be pale, dizzy or have a fast heart beat (pulse) if there is bleeding in the abdomen

Diagnosis

When your child is brought to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital after an injury, specialty physicians from the

pediatric surgery team, emergency department, pediatric intensive care unit and inpatient pediatric team will all work together to diagnose and treat your child.

- If an injury to the spleen or liver is suspected, a type of x-ray called computed tomography, or CT scan, will be requested
- Blood tests will be done to look at the blood count and liver functions
- Your child will also be examined for other possible injuries

Treatment

We use a grading system to decide how badly your child's liver or spleen is injured. This grade helps to determine treatment recommendations for your child. Most injuries will heal without surgery, but will require a hospital stay. Children with severe injuries may require admission to the intensive care unit, but most children are admitted to a medical/surgical unit. Initial treatment in the hospital will include:

- Bed rest
- Heart rate and oxygen monitors
- Blood count checks every 8 to 12 hours until it remains stable

In some cases a blood transfusion may be required. We will discuss this with you in detail if your child needs one.

When will we go home?

- One to five days after the injury, depending upon the grade or severity
- After your child's blood count does not decrease
- When your child has minimal pain
- The day after he or she is able to walk in the hospital

What may my child do when we go home?

Quiet activity should be planned for the first seven days with adult supervision.

When may my child return to play and sports?

When your child is discharged from the hospital, your surgeon will recommend when your child can start regular activity and contact sports. This may range from three to six weeks from when your child returns home. Your doctor may want a CT scan or ultrasound after discharge, before allowing your child to play contact sports.



Families can call **Child Life Services** at **253.403.5315** to schedule a pre-surgery tour.

Visit our surgical services section of the Mary Bridge website for more helpful information.