

IMPERFORATE ANUS

What is an imperforate anus?

The anus is the part of a baby's bottom where the baby poops through. An imperforate anus means that there is no 'hole' there for the baby to have bowel movements through.

How do you know that my baby has an imperforate anus?

An imperforate anus is usually detected shortly after birth. One of the first signs is that there is no place to put a rectal thermometer. Sometimes, there can be fistulas (connections between) the urethra (where urine comes through) and the rectum or the rectum and the vagina. If there are fistulas, stool may come out of the vagina or urethra. If there are other problems, your doctor will discuss that with you.

How will my baby be able to poop?

It all depends on the baby's defect. X-rays and other studies will be done to determine the degree of defect. The pediatric surgeon may be able to 'fix' things right away. If the defect is higher or more intense, the baby may need a colostomy until he/she is bigger.

What is a colostomy?

Ask your nurse for the handout about colostomies.

When will my baby be able to eat?

Shortly after your baby has surgery, he/she will be able to eat.

What else do I need to know?

Imperforate anus can be linked with certain other defects. Your physician will be looking for these other problems and talk with you should the need arise.