

Your Child's Hernia Repair: Before Surgery

Hernias happen when there is a weak spot in the belly muscles.

The weak spot can let intestines or the tissues around them poke through.

Surgery can fix a hernia.

Your child's surgery will be done either by laparoscopic surgery or open surgery.

Laparoscopic surgery is done through small cuts, called incisions. Open surgery is done by making one slightly larger cut in the area.

Before the surgery, your child will get medicine so they won't feel anything during the procedure.

During the surgery, if your child's hernia is bulging, the bulge will be pushed back into place.

The doctor will sew healthy tissue back together to close the weak spot. Sometimes a piece of material is used as a patch.

Before the surgery, tell the doctors all the medicines, vitamins, supplements, and herbal remedies your child takes.

Some of these can increase the risk of bleeding or interact with anesthesia.

Your doctor will tell you which medicines your child should take or stop before surgery.

And follow your doctor's directions for preparing your child, including when your child should stop eating and drinking.

Bring your photo ID and any other paperwork your hospital may have asked for.

Ask if you can bring a favorite toy or blanket to help comfort your child.

Surgery may be stressful for you and your child. But knowing what to expect and how to prepare can help. Recovery and healing take time. But if you have any questions or concerns, you can always call your doctor.