



Splenic Trauma

What is splenic trauma?

Splenic trauma is a physical injury to the spleen, either a contusion (bruise) or laceration. It is most commonly caused by blunt trauma to the abdomen from car accidents, falls or sports mishaps.

How is a splenic laceration diagnosed?

A splenic laceration will be diagnosed by CT (Cat Scan). Injuries to the spleen are graded by how they look on the CT scan. The surgeon bases a care plan for the spleen injury on this scan.

What is the treatment for splenic laceration?

Your child will be admitted to the hospital for observation.

Most minor spleen injuries do not need surgery and will heal on their own.

The surgery team will monitor your child's lab work to insure the bleeding has stopped on its own. If not, the surgeon will try to repair the spleen, will remove the damaged portion, or if the injury is severe, will remove the whole spleen.

Your child will be discharged when lab work is stable and your child is tolerating diet and moderate activity

What activities can my child do after discharge?

Your child may eat and drink as usual.

Your child may return to school in 3 - 4 days. If you need a school excuse, please let us know.

No P.E., sports, bicycle riding or lifting more than 20 pounds until after your child's follow-up appointment in 4-6 weeks.

When should my child return to the surgery clinic?

Your child's follow-up appointment will be in 4-6 weeks. An ultrasound will be done on this day prior to your clinic appointment. You will be given your appointment when discharged or it will be mailed to you.

If you have any questions or problems, please call

Monday-Friday 8am – 4:30pm 501-364-4852 Surgery Specialty Nurses

After hours and weekends 501-364-1100 Ask for Surgeon On Call

10/14/08 Pediatric Surgery Specialty Nurses