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# PS13lite Pyloromyotomy

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This document will give you information about a pyloromyotomy. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

### What is pyloric stenosis?

The pyloric sphincter is the valve that controls the passage of food from the stomach into the intestines (see figure 1). Pyloric stenosis is caused by the muscle of the valve thickening. This usually results in your baby vomiting soon after a feed. Often the vomiting is forceful (projectile vomiting). Because most of the goodness from a feed is absorbed into the body after the food leaves the stomach, your baby will become dehydrated and lose salts. This can be life-threatening and needs to be treated promptly.

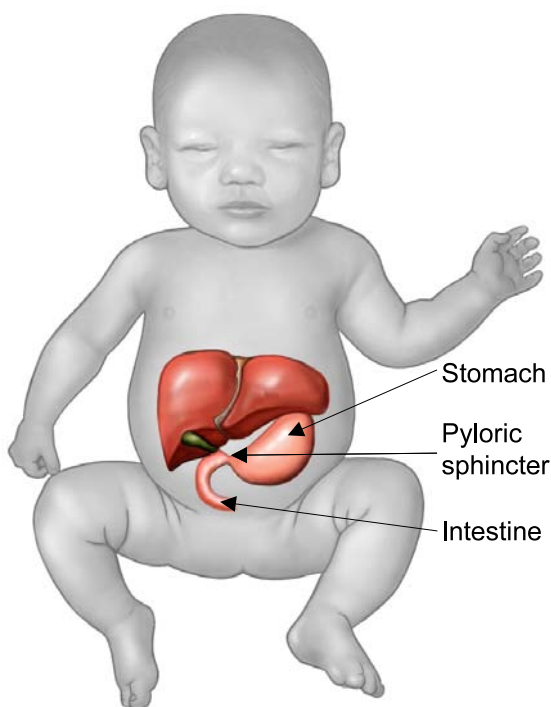


Figure 1

The position of the pyloric sphincter

### What are the benefits of surgery?

Your baby should be able to feed normally after a couple of days.

### Are there any alternatives to surgery?

If your baby is dehydrated, your surgeon may recommend giving them fluid and salts using a small tube placed in a vein (intravenous drip). However, this will not treat pyloric stenosis.

### What does the operation involve?

Your surgeon will need to stabilise your baby's fluid and salt levels using an intravenous drip.

The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic and usually takes between half an hour and three-quarters of an hour. Your surgeon will make a cut in the upper part of the abdomen. They will split the pyloric muscle and spread it apart to open the passage into the intestines.

### What complications can happen?

#### 1 General complications

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Infection of the surgical site (wound)
- Unsightly scarring

#### 2 Specific complications

- Vomiting after the operation
- Making a hole in the lining of the stomach
- Wound breakdown
- Developing a hernia in the wound

### How soon will my baby recover?

Your surgeon will let you know when you should start to feed your baby again.

You will usually be able to take your baby home after three to four days.

Your baby should gradually return to normal feeding. Have them weighed regularly.

Most babies make a good recovery. However, pyloric stenosis can come back.

### Summary

Pyloric stenosis causes your baby to vomit soon after a feed, which prevents them getting goodness from their food. This can be life-threatening and needs to be treated promptly.

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