

Potential Transplant Complications

Some of the potential complications of intestinal transplantation include:

- Rejection
- Infection
- Bleeding
- Post-Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disease (PTLD)
- Skin cancer

Rejection

Rejection occurs when the immune system attacks the new intestine as if it were a foreign invader. Rejection is most common within the first three months after transplant, but can occur at any time. Report these sign and symptoms to our transplant team:

- Irritability
- Increased stool output
- Fever
- Bloody ostomy output
- Change in stoma or tissue color

If rejection is suspected, an ileoscopy with biopsy will be performed. If rejection is diagnosed, several medications are used to treat rejection. This will require hospitalization.

Infection

Immunosuppressive agents (anti-rejection medications) can decrease your child's ability to resist and fight infection. Your family and child can reduce the risk of infection by:

- Frequent hand washing, especially after the bathroom and before eating
- Maintaining good hygiene. It is important to keep clean!
- Avoid persons with obvious infections

Bleeding

Excessive bleeding can occur anytime a major surgery is performed. If bleeding occurs and does not stop, it may be necessary for the patient to return to the operating room to fix the problem. Rejection will also have to be watched for. Bleeding must be reported to the team immediately.

PTLD

The body destroys abnormal cells all the time. Some viruses, like Epstein-Barr, can cause lymph nodes to enlarge and may help abnormal cells to grow into lymphomas. This is a rare complication from

immunosuppression and is called Post Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disease (PTLD). Routine blood tests and physical exams are performed at each clinic visit to screen for this condition.

Skin Cancer

Skin cancer is another rare complication that can occur as a result of your child's weakened immune system. A thorough, physical examination is performed at each clinic visit to screen for this condition. It is important to wear a hat and apply sunscreen when out in the sun.