Name of Operation:

Endoscopic incision of posterior urethral valves (clearing a narrowing of the water-pipe with a camera)

Main issues:

- No external cuts or wounds.
- A catheter (tube) is usually left in the bladder, and the urine will be blood-stained, for a few days afterwards. Then the MCUG (bladder dye-test) is repeated, to check that the water-pipe (urethra) is clear, before removing the catheter.
- Then he may be sore to pee for a few days afterwards.

Intended benefits:

- To make a clear channel along the water-pipe, making it easier for the bladder to empty.
- This should reduce the risk of future bladder or kidney damage, and of urine infections.
- However, this will unfortunately not reverse any previous damage to the bladder or kidneys, which in 1:3 boys leads on to kidney failure as a child or young adult.

Common or serious risks:

- Being unable to carry on with (or to finish) the operation, due to unexpected technical problems with the equipment on the day. The operation may then need repeated another day.
- Bleeding: rarely serious, but a little blood will appear in the urine over the next day or two. It usually settles if your child drinks plenty. If blood appears in the urine a week or so later, a urine sample should be checked for infection via your family-doctor.
- Infection: usually prevented by the antibiotics given in theatre and afterwards, and by plenty of fluids for a few days afterwards. If you are worried later at home, a urine sample should be checked for infection via your family-doctor or your local hospital. Sometimes such an infection can be quite serious.
- Damage to the water-pipe, including perforation (leak), or later narrowing (stricture): both are unusual. The first usually settles with a catheter in the bladder for a few days extra; the second may need further surgery later.
- Damage to the bladder, including perforation (leak): rare, and usually settles with a catheter in the bladder for a few days extra.
- Anaesthetic problems (rarely serious, but around 1 in 250,000 general anaesthetics in children can be fatal).
1. A diagram of the waterworks

2. A diagram of the cystoscope (telescope) in the bladder