Name of Operation: Nephro-ureterectomy (removal of a kidney, and most of its ureter [urine-tube from that kidney to bladder]).

Main issues:
- Wound across the upper tummy on either side:
- Dissolving stitches.
- Often a bladder drainage-tube (“catheter”) is needed for several days.
- Likely post-operative schedule and recovery-time.

Intended benefits:
- Removal of tissue that is causing harm and doing no good.
- To reduce (but not completely get rid of) the risk of urine infections, kidney stones, and high blood-pressure.

Common or serious risks:
- Overall success-rate of about 95% (19 out of 20).
- Bleeding (rarely serious, but occasionally a blood transfusion is needed).
- Infection, usually prevented by the antibiotics given in hospital, by drinking plenty for a while afterwards, and by the preventative antibiotics your child is already on. If you are worried later at home, a urine sample should be checked for infection via your family-doctor or your local hospital. It is rare that such an infection would be serious.
- Damage to the rest of the ureter (urine-tube from kidney to bladder), or to the bladder: unlikely to be serious, but occasionally further surgery may be needed.
- Damage to the bowel, liver, or spleen: rare, but could be serious.
- Damage to the sperm-tube in a boy: rare, and should not affect his future fertility.
- Early leak of urine from lower part of same ureter (usually settles with the catheter).
- On-going infections in the remaining bit of the bottom of the ureter that cannot be removed from this wound. In about 1 in 20 children, a second operation, via a new lower wound, is needed to remove the rest of this ureter.
- On-going urine infections or high blood-pressure, often for other reasons despite a technically successful operation.
- Poor healing of the wound: unusual, but very occasionally may need later surgery.
- Anaesthetic problems (rarely serious, but around 1 in 250,000 general anaesthetics in children can be fatal).
1. A diagram of normal waterworks

2. A diagram of a stretched and damaged kidney-system

3. A diagram of the waterworks after removal of a kidney