



## Urethroplasty



## Urethroplasty Eliminates Embarrassment for Active, Sports-Oriented Man

For 39-year-old Michael Barone, it was a little embarrassing every time he set foot in the locker room after playing hockey or a workout at the gym.

Born with a urinary tract defect called hypospadias, the condition left Barone's urethral opening on the side of his penis rather than the tip.

"I couldn't go to a urinal and stand up to pee," said Barone. "I always had to sit down."

After 20 unsuccessful surgical procedures, Barone was referred to Dr. Richard Santucci, the chief of urology at the Detroit Medical Center's Receiving Hospital. Dr. Santucci is an expert on urethroplasty, surgery to repair the urethra.

"People can have a blockage of their urethra, the peeing tube that carries urine out of the bladder," said Dr. Santucci. "There are many ways to fix this problem. When the problem is as serious as this one, we usually prefer a two-stage procedure where we incise the urethra and exteriorize it, meaning that the urethra tube that used to be inside the body is now actually open to the air."

During the first stage, a piece of skin is taken from the inside of the mouth and then grafted onto the penis.

"We actually put it on either side of the opened urethra, and then we let it heal up. Tissue from the mouth is very elastic," said Dr. Santucci. "It doesn't scar very much. So it provides the greatest chance that it will be the last operation the patient will ever need."

Four months later, the second stage of the surgery is performed.

"Once it is healed up, we can roll it back into a normal urethra tube and get the patient back to being more normal again," said Dr. Santucci.

Previous surgeries had left Barone with a lot of scar tissue and great difficulty urinating. In fact, he often had to use a catheter.

***"Once a week I had to insert that thing four or five inches into my penis," he said. "It wasn't the funnest thing. So, yes, I***

***would absolutely recommend this surgery to anyone."***

According to Dr. Donald Weaver, chief of surgery at the Detroit Medical Center, Dr. Santucci's success with urethroplasty underscores the beneficial relationship between the Wayne State University School of Medicine and the DMC.

"I think the opportunity to put together the clinical excellence of the hospitals with intellectual excellence really does allow an opportunity to create advantages for our patients," said Dr. Weaver.

Receiving Hospital is one of nine hospitals at the Detroit Medical Center where 270 of our doctors are ranked among America's very best physicians. Urethroplasty at the DMC, is it a healthcare revolution? Maybe. We just think it's a better way to get better. For more information or to schedule an appointment at any DMC facility, call 1-888-DMC-2500.



Michael Barone

## Urethroplasty Video Description:

Urethroplasty is a surgical procedure to correct scar tissue blockage of the urethra called urethral stricture.