

UMBILICAL HERNIA

What is an umbilical hernia?

An umbilical hernia occurs when there is a delay in the closure of a small opening in the muscle at the level of the umbilicus (belly button). These hernias rarely cause serious problems in infancy and childhood and may be left alone to close naturally. The majority of umbilical hernias will close by 12 months of age.

Strapping the hernia does not help to close it more quickly and may be dangerous.



<http://drugline.org/ail/pathography/2108/>

Will my child need an operation?

If the hernia has not closed by the time your child is 1-2 years of age, your child may need an operation. The operation involves closing the opening with stitches and requires a general anaesthetic. There are later complications in later childhood and adulthood if the hernia does not close.

If the umbilical hernia is still present after your baby is one year old, ask your GP to refer you to a paediatric surgeon to determine whether your baby requires surgery.