

## Member story: Meet Joel and Jayda



Joel's daughter Jayda was only 6 months old when she was diagnosed with epispadias, a rare congenital abnormality in which the urethra does not develop properly, causing urinary incontinence.

Jayda's first operation was at the age of 1, when she had a stent placed in her kidney. This procedure failed to improve Jayda's ability to hold her urine, and over the next few years she underwent a series of smaller procedures. Unfortunately, none successfully resolved her condition.

All this time, Joel and his wife were trying to avoid an invasive procedure meant to enlarge Jayda's bladder. Jayda's treating doctor, a paediatric urologist, had recommended this procedure after she was initially diagnosed.

Once Jayda was 6 years old and had endured several failed procedures, Joel and his wife were forced to make a decision. The first option was to proceed with the bladder enlargement operation they had been trying to avoid over the years. However, now that Jayda was older, her paediatric urologist felt this procedure would no longer be effective. Instead, the paediatric urologist recommended a completely different procedure that would result in Jayda having an external contraption that she would need to manually drain. This was the second option. Joel and his wife decided to go with the bladder enlargement operation (option one), hoping that it might work and Jayda could avoid having an external device for the rest of her life.

Joel wanted an expert opinion on whether they were making the right decision, so he reached out to Best Doctors. Just a few days before Jayda's surgery date for the bladder enlargement, Joel cancelled the operation after the Best Doctors report came back and the expert advised against it, echoing what Jayda's treating doctor had told them. The Best Doctors expert, an associate professor and paediatric urologist renowned in his field, agreed that at this point in Jayda's life, this particular procedure would no longer be effective. The Best Doctors expert provided details further explaining his reasoning as to why this wasn't the proper solution for resolving Jayda's condition.

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"Best Doctors was very helpful —the reality sunk in that smaller procedures wouldn't work," said Joel.

He reviewed the report with Jayda's paediatric urologist, who was familiar with the Best Doctors expert.

"The nice thing about the report is that it gave us help with questions to ask and it cleared some things up," said Joel.

Joel and his wife ultimately decided to proceed with the other procedure that will result in Jayda having an external apparatus that she will need to drain. This operation will provide a permanent solution to Jayda's medical condition.

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