

## **New Way to Treat Urinary Disease**

Vesicoureteric reflux is a congenital disease among children due to structural failure in the urinary system. When vesicoureteric reflux is present, urine flow from the bladder will go back to the ureter and kidney. Hence, bacteria in urine will lead to severe urinary tract infection or even damage to the kidneys. When pregnant women undergo the prenatal ultrasound examination, fetus with such problem can be discovered to have a swollen kidney. In Hong Kong, 1 in 20 babies with fever are caused by urinary tract infection and around 30% of them have vesicoureteric reflux.

Several treatments will be available for these children, including antibiotic, cystoscope injection therapy and surgical treatment. Antibiotic can prevent urinary tract infection, but it requires long term treatment and is only suitable for babies with mild symptoms. Cystoscope injection therapy is seldom used as treatment in Hong Kong previously, since serious side effects like damages to brain and lung has been reported with the original substance for injection. Surgery is the most effective method by repairing the defects in urinary system, but conventional open surgery results in pain and large wounds.

In recent years, the improved endoscope injection therapy and minimally invasive surgery have been introduced for curing vesicoureteric reflux. The new endoscope injection therapy, using a FDA approved biodegradable product named Hyaluronic acid & Dexatranomer, is safe, takes about 10 minutes and cures this disease permanently, with 80% success rate. Those children can leave hospital on the same day of the operation and do not need to take antibiotic afterwards. Minimally invasive surgery can provide better outcomes in repairing the urinary system, so those children can recover within 1 or 2 days.