

What is a Chait Button?

The Chait Trapdoor is a specialised device that is used by a very small group of patients. The Chait Trapdoor Button is inserted through a surgically created opening called an appendicostomy or Malone Stoma. This makes bowel management simple, effective and easy to do independently from hospital. Both young and older people have become more socially active, independent and confident after they have a Chait Button inserted for bowel management.

Many doctors and Stomal Therapists will probably never have heard of or seen one before. However a growing number of children throughout Australasia have these buttons inserted as a means to assist in home management of Slow Transit Constipation, management of anorectal malformations, spina bifida and spinal injury and in some cases unresponsive functional retention.

The device was developed by Dr Peter Chait from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada in the late 90's so this device in medical terms is still very new technology.

In Australia, the Chait button is placed in a stoma called an appendicostomy (when the end of the appendix is opened and brought out onto the abdominal wall) or in some cases where the appendix has previously been removed, a cecostomy. The external part of the Chait button fits snugly against the abdomen and the internal part coils itself inside the bowel, like a telephone cord.

As many doctors may not have seen one before, as the parent of a child with a Chait button, you are likely to be the local expert! With the education given in by PCAA and your specialist medical team and this leaflet as a reference, it won't be as hard as it sounds.

The Chait is essentially a device that gives direct access to the colon (as seen in the diagram below) so that washout solutions and medications can be given directly to the affected colon avoiding the child having to orally take often distasteful medications. Having this direct access greatly improves the child's independence from regular hospital admissions to receive similar treatments that often take up to several days. With the option of giving treatments via the Chait at home, affected children and their families have much less disruption than they previously experienced with multiple hospital admissions.

There are some common complications that could arise during the initial period however these are very minor and usually very well tolerated and managed by the child and their carers. See below some diagrams that provide a simple explanation of where the Chait Trapdoor Button is surgically placed.

For more information refer to the PC "Suggested Management Guide" for STC patients.

Diagram 1: Colon

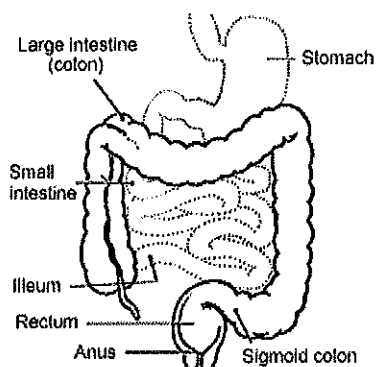
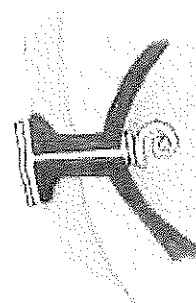


Diagram 2: Chait Button extended after placement in the appendicostomy



For more information contact PCAA National Office on 1300 885 209