

A longitudinal study looking at the prevalence, risk factors, and consequences of persistent post-surgical pain in children. (POPSICLE)

ACTRN12623000517673

Status	RECRUITING
Sponsor	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Enrollment	5,000 participants

Plain Language Summary

While most children recover well after surgery, a small but significant number go on to develop chronic pain that persists long after the wound has healed. This can affect their schooling, emotional wellbeing, and development. The POPSICLE study wants to understand why some children develop ongoing pain after surgery and others don't — particularly whether psychological factors like pre-existing anxiety play a role.

Researchers will follow children aged 0–15 having common surgeries (like appendix removal, circumcision, or hernia repair) over three years. Parents and patients will complete questionnaires before and at multiple time points after surgery to track pain levels, anxiety, coping, and quality of life. The findings will help identify children at risk early so that better support can be offered.

Your child may be eligible if they are under 16 and are having one of the specified surgical procedures at Perth Children's Hospital. Families need to be able to complete questionnaires in English. Children with significant cognitive or developmental delay are not eligible.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (1)

- Children aged 0 to 16 years undergoing a surgical procedure in either group elective (laparoscopic appendectomy, circumcision, hypospadias repair or orchidopexy surgeries) or group emergency (laparoscopic appendectomy or scrotal exploration surgeries)

Exclusion (3)

- The parent and child have inadequate English language skills to understand the questionnaires.
- Children with significant/severe developmental or cognitive delay based on a formal diagnosis.
- Families that are unable to complete the long-term follow up surveys.

Locations (19 total)

Perth Children's Hospital - Nedlands, SA,WA, Australia
Womens and Childrens Hospital - North Adelaide, SA,WA, Australia
Fiona Stanley Hospital - Murdoch, SA,WA, Australia
... and 16 more locations

<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12623000517673>

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