



Department of Pediatric Urology

Ordensklinikum Linz

Austria

The hospital (formerly Hospital of the sisters of Charity) was founded in 1842 and the establishment of the Department of Pediatrics with 12 beds can be traced back to 1851. The Department of Urology was established in 1930. There is an old tradition of good collaboration between Urology and Pediatrics for decades. Due to these historic routes our hospital was “a well known place” in our country to treat children with urological problems.

Our department was established as an independent unit in 1992. Prof. Dr. Marcus Riccabona, FEAPU, started to work as a full time Pediatric Urologist and to built up and organize the first unit in Pediatric Urology in Austria and Germany starting at that time with Dr. Josef Oswald as his only coworker. In 2012, after Prof. Riccabona retired, Prof. Dr. Josef Oswald, who, in the meanwhile, was working for years at the Department of Urology of the University of Innsbruck and performed a great deal of important research, was designated the new head of department. Our department is the only pediatric urological unit in Austria that is not part of another department (urology of pediatric surgery).



The patient numbers increased year by year to about 2000 inpatients and around 7000 outpatients. About 1500 operations and 200 urodynamic exams are performed every year. The unit has 14 inpatients beds located within the infants and children wards and a Pediatric Urology day-care hospital with 8 beds, a well equipped policlinic with integrated sonography units,

operating by the pediatric urologists and at the top of current standards (4D ultrasound, contrast enhanced ultrasound, ...). Radiologic exams, predominantly voiding cystourethrograms are also performed in the department by pediatric urologists. A multidisciplinary bladder school is run by a professional urotherapist and a dedicated operating room (OR) is available every day, additionally a second OR on Tuesday and Thursday. The staff includes five full time pediatric urologists, all of them FEAPUs. There is specialized pediatric anesthesia group as well as a specialized structure for pediatric urologic exams in the Department of Nuclear Medicine, enabling efficient and high-quality diagnostics. There is a lively collaboration with pediatric nephrology, oncology and pediatric surgery involving regular meetings.

In addition there is one fellowship position, where we offer a FEAPU training according to the guidelines of the JCPU. All aspects of pediatric urology except transplantation are covered and scientific activities are maximally endorsed.

Beneath clinical work, science represents a core area of our work. During the last 4 years we – as a department – have published more than 15 articles in peer reviewed journals, curated and authored a number of book chapters and successfully submitted more than 30 abstracts to national and international meetings. There are weekly journal clubs, diploma and doctorate theses are elaborated under our auspices. Currently several clinical and four laboratory projects, partly funded by national and international science funds are worked upon. Furthermore we regularly organize an international pediatric urology meeting in Lech, Austria and are involved in a number of educational activities.

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