

Paul Mitrofanoff



He was born in Paris in 1934. He is married and has two children. He completed his medical studies in Paris. Initially trained in General Paediatric Surgery, he progressively specialised in Paediatric Urology mainly in the department of Jean Cendron. In 1968 he's joined the University Hospital of Rouen as Professor of Paediatric Surgery, and in 1990 was appointed head of the Department of Paediatric Surgery. He soon became exclusively involved in Paediatric Urology with a special interest in neurogenic bladder as the hospital had many cases of spina bifida. Concerning continent vesicostomy, the concept first emerged in the mid-seventies when the limits of the C.I.C. became apparent, mainly due to urine leakage between catheterizations. Seeking an efficient means of preventing leakage and facilitating catheterization, he decided to 1° use the appendix with a flap valve and 2° to close the bladder neck. The first case involved a 16-year-old boy with spina bifida who refused urethral C.I.C. At that time, the only viable alternative was a cutaneous diversion which he also refused. The boy had undergone a continent appendicovesicostomy in November 1976 and had no subsequent surgery.

In his first series, there were 17 cases. The paper was published in 1980. A few years later, he met John Duckett who immediately took an interest in this procedure and published his first series with Howard Snyder in 1986. In Prof. Mitrofanoff's words: 'Very kindly, they added the word "principle" to the technique, which has henceforth been known as the "Mitrofanoff Principle". I am very grateful to them for that.'

Since its development, the process has been widely used throughout the world.

Prof Mitrofanoff has been enjoying a pleasant retirement with his family in a suburb of Paris.