



PATIENT AND FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET

Undescended Testicle

What is an undescended testicle?

As a boy baby is growing in the womb the testicles are developing in the abdomen. They travel down a tunnel called the inguinal canal into the scrotum during pregnancy. When the testicles (one or both) cannot be felt in the scrotum, they are called “undescended”.

How do I know if my child has an undescended testicle?

Here are some of the symptoms your child may have:

Your child’s doctor will check your child’s scrotum for testicles at his checkups. This will happen during his first years of life. If your child’s doctor cannot feel a testicle, or the scrotum looks smaller on one side this may mean your child has an undescended testicle. If this is the case your child’s doctor will refer your child to a surgeon for evaluation.

Do you have to surgically repair the undescended testicle?

Testicles need to be in the scrotum in order to work properly. Undescended testicles will most likely not work well. In some cases, they may not produce sperm. They are also more likely to turn into cancer. This happens when the child is older.

What happens before surgery?

The undescended testicle can be located anywhere from the abdomen to the top of the scrotum. Your child’s surgeon will order an ultrasound test to find the location of the testicle. Your child’s surgeon will continue to watch the undescended testicle between 6 months and 12 months of age. This is because the testicle may descend on its own before scheduling surgery.

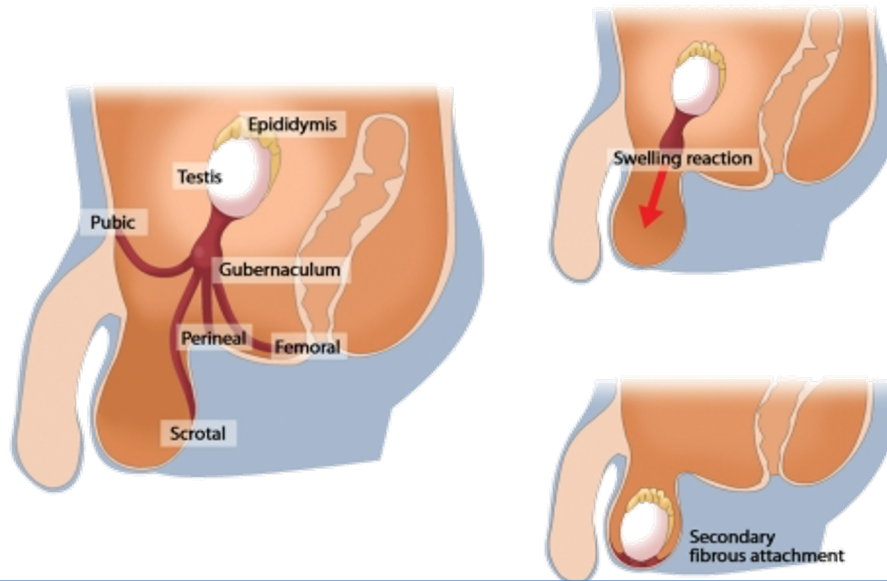
How is an undescended testicle treated?

The treatment for an undescended testicle is surgery. This surgical procedure is called an orchiopexy. An ultrasound will help your child’s surgeon find the testicle. This will help to determine what type of surgery is needed.

Testicles that are high in the abdomen may need to be moved in two surgeries, instead of one. Sometimes a testicle can be damaged during development, and your child’s may have no testicle or a just a very small testicle. If the testicle is very small it will be removed. If it is not removed it is possible to turn into cancer when your child is older.

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Park, P., & Choi, H. (2010). An evolution of orchiopexy: Historical aspect. *Korean Journal of Urology*, 51(3), 155–160. [Online image]. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kju-51-155-g001.jpg>

What happens during surgery?

During surgery, the undescended testicle(s) is brought down into the scrotum. This is kept in place with stitches.

What happens after surgery?

As soon as your child wakes up after surgery, someone from the recovery room will call you so you can be with your child again.

When can we go home?

Your child will go home the same day of surgery, usually a few hours after he recovers from anesthesia.

How do I care for my child at home?

Incision Care:

- There will be an incision in the groin or a few small incisions at the belly button and on the belly. This will depend on the surgical procedure performed.
- Reinforced sticky bandages may be applied. A clear plastic dressing or a gauze dressing will cover the incision.
- Remove the dressings according to your surgeon's instructions.
- Expect bruising and swelling for at least 3-5 days.
- If the operation is performed through the scrotum, a dissolvable stitch (or suture) is placed. This will fall out on its own.



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How do I care for my child at home?

Pain Control:

- Your child may need pain medicine for the first 24-48 hours after surgery. Sometime this will be needed for 3-4 days.
- Some children require prescription pain medication at home. Give your child all medications as directed by your child's doctor.
- If your child is still uncomfortable, call your child's surgeon. Some children need more medicine than others.

Activity:

- Your child should avoid contact sports for 2-3 weeks after surgery.

When should I call the office?

If your child experiences any of the following, please call our office:

- Bleeding or drainage at the incision.
- Fever above 101 F.
- Vomiting or throwing up
- Not peeing or fewer wet diapers than usual.
- Redness, swelling, increased soreness or pus draining from incisions

Your child will need to follow up with the surgeon. You will receive specific instructions for follow up when your child is discharged.

Please don't hesitate to call our office if you have any problems or concerns.

Surgeon: _____

Nurse Practitioner(s): _____

Phone Number (daytime): _____

Phone Number (after hours): _____

Thank you for allowing us to care for your child.