

PS06lite Hydrocele Repair (child)

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This document will give you information about a hydrocele repair. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

What is a hydrocele?

A hydrocele is a swelling around the testicle caused by a collection of fluid.

All boys have a connection between their abdomen and their scrotum before they are born. By birth, this connection is usually closed. If it stays open, the fluid that surrounds the bowel may trickle down and collect in the scrotum (see figure 1).

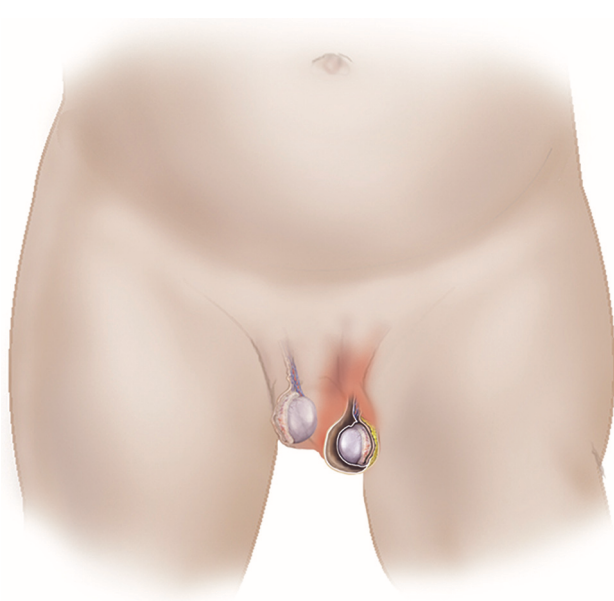


Figure 1
Fluid collecting around a testicle

What are the benefits of surgery?

Your child should no longer have the hydrocele. Surgery should prevent your child from having discomfort or embarrassment caused by the hydrocele getting larger as he gets older.

Are there any alternatives to surgery?

Surgery is usually recommended if the connection has not closed by the time your child is one year old.

What does the operation involve?

The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic and usually takes about an hour. Keyhole surgery can be used to repair a hydrocele but most hydroceles in children are repaired through a cut on the groin. Your surgeon will find the connection and tie it off.

What complications can happen?

1 General complications

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Unsightly scarring
- Infection of the surgical site (wound)

2 Specific complications

- Developing a collection of blood or fluid
- Injury to nerves
- Damage of the blood supply to the testicle
- Damage to the tube that carries sperm

How soon will my child recover?

Your child should be able to go home the same day.

They will usually be well enough to return to school after one to two weeks.

For a small number of children the hydrocele comes back.

Summary

A hydrocele is a common condition where fluid collects around a testicle. Surgery is usually recommended if a hydrocele continues beyond the first year of life.

Acknowledgements

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