

Orchidopexy

The purpose of this leaflet is to explain orchidopexy and post-operative advice.

What is an orchidopexy?

An orchidopexy is an operation performed to position the testicle in the correct place if it does not descend normally.

What makes an orchidopexy necessary?

As a male baby grows and matures during pregnancy, the testicles develop in the abdomen and then move down into the scrotum through an area called the inguinal canal. By 6 months of age the testis should be present in the scrotum. Sometimes a testicle may not drop completely and, if left outside the scrotum, the testicle would not grow normally.

What happens during an orchidopexy?

The surgeon will make a small incision in the groin. The testicle is found and fixed in the scrotum through a second incision with a dissolvable stitch. The surgical site wound is covered with tissue glue.

Anaesthetic

Your child will be admitted into hospital for a day and will need a general anaesthetic for the procedure to be done. Anaesthetic drugs remain in the body for 24 hours or more and gradually wear off over this time. It is therefore important that your child remains with a responsible adult and will need to rest after discharge from hospital.

Discharge

Your child will be checked over by the surgeon before being discharged home and an appointment will be made for you to bring him back to the outpatient clinic in 3 months.

Post-operative advice

The dressing that has been used to cover your child's wound (tissue glue) will peel off on its own in 7-10 days after the operation. Any stitches that were used to close the wound will dissolve and do not need to be removed.

Your child can take a shower after 48 hours and have a bath after 5 days. Do not use bubble bath or other additives in the water. Avoid swimming until the wound is completely healed.

Your child will have some bruising and tenderness after the operation. It is recommended that you give him regular pain relief for 48 hours post-operatively. Paracetamol or ibuprofen should be sufficient. Your child's nurse will give you advice regarding this.

Your child should avoid sports or sitting astride items such as bicycles, trucks, rocking horses or anything that puts pressure on the scrotum for 2-3 weeks.

Infection

Whilst at home please be alert for any signs that the site of the surgery has become infected. These include:

- Your child being in a lot of pain, and pain relief not working.
- Your child having a high temperature (fever) of 38°C (100.4°F) or above.
- The site of the surgery being red, inflamed and/or feeling hotter than the surrounding area.
- A discharge of fluid or pus from the site of the surgery.

If you notice any of these signs and symptoms, contact your GP as soon as possible for advice.

Useful contact details

East and North Hertfordshire Teaching NHS Trust:

- Website www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk
- Telephone 01438 314333

Bluebell Ward, Lister Hospital:

- Telephone 01438 284008

Leaflet information

You can request this information in a different format or another language; please speak to your doctor or nurse.

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