



Spire Children and Young
People's Service

Patient information

Paediatric hydrocele

This leaflet provides some standard information and advice about your son's hydrocele. However, you should always follow the instructions of your son's consultant.

If you have any unanswered questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask your son's consultant or nurse for more information. It is natural to feel anxious, but knowing what to expect can often help.

The information contained in this leaflet is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice nor is it intended to be for medical diagnosis or treatment.

	Children's Ward: 0161 447 6914
	Out of Hours: 0161 447 6677
	info@spiremanchester.com
	www.spiremanchester.com



Spire

Manchester Hospital

What is a hydrocele?

A hydrocele is a fluid filled sac which lies within the scrotum. A hydrocele can develop when the passage through which the testicles descend into the scrotum fails to close. Fluid from inside the abdomen then flows through this passage into the scrotum causing the scrotum to swell.

One or both sides of the scrotum can become swollen. A hydrocele can also develop if the testicle becomes inflamed or damaged, or if there is fluid blocking the sperm tube.

Hydroceles are very common in new born boys.

The procedure is done under a general anaesthetic, which means your son will be asleep throughout and will not feel any pain.

Preparing for the operation

You will have received information about how to prepare your son for their operation in their admission letter. It is a good idea for your son to bring any favourite toys with them and some pyjamas/night wear to wear to theatre.

When you arrive at the hospital, a nurse will explain how your

son will be cared for during their stay and do some simple tests, such as checking his pulse and temperature.

About the operation

You will be encouraged to stay with your son as far as the anaesthetic room. Once he is asleep the paediatric nurse will escort you back to their room.

Once your child is asleep, the hydrocele is removed in a small operation called a hydrocelectomy. The consultant will remove the fluid inside your son's scrotum and then seal off the passage between the abdomen and the scrotum. The cut will be closed with dissolvable stitches.

After the operation

Your son will be taken from the operating theatre to the recovery room, where he will come round from the anaesthetic under close supervision. Once your son has woken, the paediatric nurse will escort you to collect him and return to his room on the ward.

Once on the ward, the nurse will make your son comfortable and monitor him. Your child will need to rest on the bed or on your lap

until the effects of the anaesthetic have passed.

The consultant will come to see your son and discuss any findings from the operation and follow up care. Once your son has recovered, eaten, drank and passed urine he will be able to go home.

Looking after your son at home

After the operation, your child may feel some tenderness and have bruising at the operation site. As the testes are a very soft area, the swelling from the bruising will be more noticeable the day after the operation. The site will be covered with a clear dressing which should stay in place for up to a week.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the paediatric team on 0161 447 6914 or main reception on 0161 447 6677.

Spire Manchester Hospital does not have an accident and emergency department therefore if your concerns are of a serious nature please seek immediate medical attention from your local accident and emergency department.

You should give your son regular pain relief for the first 24 hours and then as often as he seems to need it (always follow the instructions on the bottle).

Contact the hospital if your child develops any of the following symptoms:

- Your son develops a fever
- Your son is in a lot of pain and pain relief does not seem to help
- If there is oozing from the wound, such as bleeding, or a smelly discharge
- If the wound site looks red or inflamed and feels hotter than the surrounding skin.