



Spire Children and Young
People's Service

Patient information

Paediatric undescended testicles/orchidopexy

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

If you have any unanswered questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask your child'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 are undescended testicles?

This is when your son's testicles are not in their usual place in the scrotum. Both testicles should have descended into the scrotum by the time your child is one year old. Generally, only one of the testicles is affected, but on rare occasions, both testicles fail to travel to the scrotum.

Usually, there will not be any symptoms, other than not being able to feel the testicles in the scrotum. Your child will not be in pain, however if one of the testicles were to become twisted (testicular torsion), this would be painful for your child.

The operation to bring the testicles down into the scrotum is called an orchidopexy. It is done under a general anaesthetic, which means your child will be asleep throughout and not feel any pain.

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.

Preparing for the operation

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

About the operation

You will be encouraged to stay with your child as far as the anaesthetic room. Once they are asleep the paediatric nurse will escort you back to your room.

A cut is made in the groin and the base of the scrotum. The testicle is moved down into the scrotum and the passage through which the testicle should have travelled is closed up to stop the testicle moving back into your child's abdomen. The cuts are closed with dissolvable stitches.

After the operation

Your child will be taken from the operating theatre to the recovery room, where they 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 child and discuss any findings from the operation and follow up care. Once your child has recovered, eaten, drank and passed urine they 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. The site will be covered with a clear dressing which should stay in place for up to a week.

You should give your child regular pain relief for the first 24 hours and then as often as they seem to need it, always follow the instructions on the bottle.

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

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

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.