



Orchiopexy

Surgery for Undescended Testicles (Cryptorchidism)

Patient and Family Education

What is cryptorchidism?

Cryptorchidism is when a child's testicles have not dropped down into his scrotum.

What is orchiopexy?

Orchiopexy (Or-KEE-Oh-Peck-SEE) is surgery to correct cryptorchidism by replacing the testicles into his scrotum.

How should I care for my child after surgery?

Your child's doctor will talk with you about specific care for your child. Some general guidelines to follow include:

- Give your child any medicines for pain or antibiotics as directed by his doctor.
- If your child is on an antibiotic, continue to give it as ordered. **DO NOT** stop giving your child this medicine because he feels better.
- Keep the area clean and dry for two to four days as directed by his doctor.
 - Give your child only sponge baths.
 - Tub baths may usually be given after this time or as directed by his doctor.
- If your child is still in diapers, gently clean the incisions with warm water with each diaper change. If ordered by your child's doctor, you may apply antibiotic ointment after cleaning.
- A small amount of bloody drainage is normal.
- If your child has a dressing you may remove it after 48 hours – check with your child's doctor.
- There may be bruising in the scrotal area, which should heal on its own.

What else do I need to know?

- Stitches will dissolve over a 7 to 10 day period.
- Loose fitting clothes should be worn until your child's follow-up appointment.
- Normal activities should be limited for two to three weeks. Encourage quiet activities such as reading, coloring or TV. Do not let him run, jump or climb.
- Protect your child's groin area from injury.
 - **DO NOT** allow your child to play on straddle or riding toys.
 - **DO NOT** straddle your child on your hip when you carry him for at least 2 weeks.
 - Have your child avoid gym class for at least 2 weeks.
- Your child may return to school four to five days after surgery if he can tolerate it.

When should I call the doctor?

Call your child's doctor **right away** if he has:

- Any signs of infection such as redness, swelling, or bad smelling drainage at the incision site
- A fever over 101°F or fever that lasts for more than 24 hours
- You have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room right away.

This is general information and is not specific medical advice for your child. Always consult your child's doctor or other healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns about the care or health of your child. A Children's Healthcare of Atlanta pediatric advice nurse is available 24 hours a day at 404-250-KIDS.