

# Orchiopexy surgery for undescended testicles (cryptorchidism)

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## What is cryptorchidism?

Cryptorchidism is when a testicle does not drop down into the scrotum.

## What is orchiopexy?

Orchiopexy is surgery to fix cryptorchidism. It replaces the testicle into the scrotum.

## How should I care for my child after surgery?

Talk with the doctor about specific care for your child. Some guidelines include:

- Give your child pain medicines as ordered.
- If your child is taking an antibiotic, give it exactly as ordered. Keep giving it even if your child feels better.
- Keep the area clean and dry for 2 days. Give your child only sponge baths during this time. Most often, you may begin tub baths after this time.
- Put antibiotic ointment on the scrotal incision after cleaning. Also put antibiotic ointment on the diaper with diaper changes.
- A small amount of bloody drainage is normal. There may also be bruising around the scrotum. This should heal on its own.
- Sometimes a temporary button is attached to the testicle to help it stay in the scrotum. The doctor must remove the button in their clinic 1 to 2 weeks after surgery. It is OK if the button comes off early, just let your doctor know.

## What else do I need to know?

- Stitches will dissolve over 1 to 3 weeks.
- Have your child wear loose-fitting clothes until their follow-up visit.
- Limit normal activities for 2 to 3 weeks. Have your child do quiet activities, such as reading, coloring or watching TV. Do not let them run, jump or climb. No pool.
- 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 them for at least 2 weeks.
  - Have your child avoid gym class for at least 2 weeks.
- Your child may return to school 4 to 5 days after surgery if they feel well enough.

## When should I call the doctor?

Call the doctor **right away** if your child has:

- Any signs of infection. This may include redness, swelling that is getting worse, or creamy or bad smelling drainage at the incision site.
- A fever over 101°F or fever that lasts for more than 24 hours.

Also call if you have questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

**This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.**

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