

hernia/hydrocele

what is hydrocele?

A hydrocele is what we call swelling of the scrotum. The swelling may change in size. It can happen on one or both sides. It happens when the canal where the testis descends does not close off before or shortly after birth. The open canal lets fluid to collect around the testicle and swelling around the testicle. This is not harmful and should not cause any discomfort to the child. If it has not gotten better by the time the child turns 1 year old, your child may need to have it surgically repaired. The surgery is called a hydrocelectomy. After this point, the change for the canal to close becomes rare.

what is a hernia?

A hernia happens when the canal where the testis descends, is open and abdominal contents go into the groin or scrotum. A hernia shows as swelling in the groin or scrotal area. The swelling may increase with actions such as crying or coughing. A hernia is not thought of as an emergency, but does need surgery. But, a strangulated hernia is an emergency. A strangulated hernia is when the blood flow has been cut off to the contents of the hernia sac (such as bowel, omentum, fatty tissue or ovary) which causes pain. A strangulated hernia needs emergency surgery right away. Most hernias will not cause the child pain.

If your child starts to feel pain, or the scrotum starts to swell more or become red, bring him to the emergency room to be checked right away.

fixing a hernia and hydrocelectomy

Fixing a hernia, also called hernia repair or hydrocelectomy, is an outpatient surgery. This means that you come to the hospital for the surgery but are not admitted. Your child would be under general anesthesia so that they are asleep for the surgery. If you have questions about this, please ask the anesthesiologist. This is the person that helps your child fall asleep.

Your child will have an incision in the groin or the scrotum if he has hernia/ hydrocele. The stitches used will dissolve after. So, there is no need to have stitches removed. There will be a clear bandage over the incision on the groin. This bandage will fall off on its own. It is okay if it falls off. There are stitches and steri-strips over the incision as well. You will most likely see some mild swelling and bruising of the scrotal sac after surgery. The urologist will give you a prescription for pain medication after surgery.

healing after surgery

- Younger children can return to child care in two to three days
- Older (school age) children will return to school in two to three days
- No actions that require straddling for two weeks (such as bicycle, sit and spin, rocking horse, etc.)
- No strenuous sports for two to three weeks
- No weight lifting for six weeks



healing after surgery (continued)

- No contact sports (like football) for three weeks
- Older children can return to driving in two weeks
- Your child can take a shower 48 hours after surgery
- Your child can swim three weeks after surgery

possible issues after surgery

- Bleeding and infection may occur. But, this is rare
- Scrotal hematoma, or blood clot, in the scrotum

call our office if your child has:

- Fever
- Increased pain
- Severe swelling or discharge from incision

Call for any questions. Our office number is 937-641-3466. We are available Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

