

Information for parents whose son is undergoing an Orchidopexy

Information for parents



Shipwreck Ward, QAH (023) 9228 6391

Specialist Support

If you require this leaflet in another language, large print or another format, please contact the Health Information Centre Tel: (023) 9228 6757, who will advise you.



What is an orchidopexy?

Orchidopexy is the operation to place a testicle in the scrotum and secure it in that position.

Why is an orchidopexy performed?

The testicle develops within the abdomen and several weeks before birth moves to the scrotum. Sometimes the testicle does not move into the scrotum. This can lead to infertility in the affected testicle. By moving the testicle into the scrotum, the risk of infertility is reduced. However, one testicle is all that is required for normal fertility. The operation also reduces the risk of trauma to the testicle.

How is the operation performed?

The operation is performed under general anaesthetic (where your son will be asleep). A cut is made in the groin and also in the scrotum. All wounds are closed using dissolving stitches which do not have to be removed.

Risks and complications

There is a small chance that the testicle cannot be brought into the scrotum. If there is a normal testicle in the other half of the scrotum, it is safer to remove the 'misplaced' testicle than to leave it in the wrong position. After puberty, a testicle implant can be placed if your son requests it.

Even when it is possible to place the testicle in the scrotum it may not develop as well as the other side.

Bruising is common and fades after 2-3 weeks.

We must by law obtain written **consent** to any operation beforehand. Staff will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign a consent form. Young people are presumed to be able to give consent depending on their maturity and the nature of the decision.

Where a child is not competent to give consent, only a person (or body) with parental responsibility may consent on the child's behalf. More detailed information is available www.dh.gov.uk

Getting over the anaesthetic

Your son will be able to eat and drink normally. Start with a light diet. If there are any feelings of sickness, stick to clear fluids and dry biscuits until feeling better. Avoid sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks at first.

Further care and follow up

- Any dressings or medicine that may be necessary will be given and explained to you before you go home
- All stitches are dissolvable. Leave the dressing in place for 36-48 hrs then bath or shower as normal
- Avoid soap and bath additives on the wound. Dry carefully and keep as clean and dry as possible
- If a community nurse has been arranged to call on you, your named nurse will tell you and give you the appropriate information
- Your son will be seen for a check-up 1-2 months after surgery.

When can my child go back to school?

Your child will be off school for one week with a further week off sporting activities.

Your child's GP

Your child's GP surgery has been informed of your child's admission today. You will be given a letter to take home which is for the GP should you need to call him/her to your home.

Contact details

If you have any queries or concerns please ring:

- Paediatric Department, A8 Shipwreck Ward, Queen Alexandra Hospital : Tel: (023) 9228 6391
- Your child's GP if you feel it necessary, or if you feel warrants it, you may attend the Emergency Department

Information we hold about you and your rights under the Data Protection Act

Please refer to the booklet 'Your Healthcare Information – Your Rights! Our Responsibilities!' for further guidance.

How to comment on your treatment

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer your questions. However, if you have any concerns you can also contact the Patient Experience Service on 0800 917 6039 or E-mail:

portsmouthhospitals.patientexperience@porthosp.nhs.uk

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