Orchiopexy: How is the surgery done?

Surgery for undescended testicle is performed in an outpatient setting. Your child will have general anesthesia. When a testis is felt in the groin area we usually explore the area through a small incision first. Surgical correction is done by dissecting the spermatic artery and veins and the vas deferens to have adequate length to move the testicle to the correct spot into the scrotum.

Most undescended testes are associated with a hernia that must be repaired.(please refer to the hernia handout for more information on this procedure) After this is done, the testis is brought down into the scrotum (secured as low as possible) and anchored in a space created in the scrotum (orchiopexy). This procedure is done with two surgical incisions one in the groin, and one into the scrotum.

Orchiopexy

Orchiopexy is done to place an undescended testicle in its normal position in the scrotum.

Surgery to move an undescended testicle into the scrotum is called orchiopexy or orchidopexy. It is usually performed on babies who are 9 to 15 months old.

Orchiopexy may also be done on older boys and, rarely, on teens and adult men who have undescended testicles. Untreated undescended testicles are usually removed in adult men and teens who have gone through puberty because of the increased risk of testicular cancer.

What to Expect After Surgery

Orchiopexy can be done as an outpatient procedure if it is uncomplicated. Sometimes a child needs a short hospital stay. The surgery for testicles that are located just above the scrotum and for testicles that are low in the inguinal canal is usually much simpler than for testicles that are higher up in the canal or in the abdomen.

For at least 2 weeks after surgery, boys should avoid games, sports, rough play, bike riding, and other activities where there is a risk of an injury to the genitals.

The major indications for treatment by orchiopexy include:

- The scrotal sac is the safest place for the testicle- if it is located above this site it may be prone for more injury.
- Enhance fertility.
- Reduce the likelihood of "torsion" or twisting of the testicle- Testicular torsion is a great risk and twisting of the testicle can lead to decreased blood supply and is a surgical emergency.
- An Undescended testicle is associated with a greater risk for testicular cancer.
- Undescended testicles have an associated hernia sac- and this will need to be corrected as well.
- The repair of the undescended testicle will also provide a better cosmetic appearance.

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The information should not be used in place of a visit, call, consultation or advice of your physician, nurse or other health care provider.

The information obtained herein is not exhaustive and does not cover all aspects of the specific disease, ailment, physical condition of their treatments.

Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician, nurse or other health care provider promptly.