

## Hydrocele Repair (child)

This document will give you information about a hydrocele repair. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

### What is a hydrocele?

A hydrocele is a swelling around the testicle caused by a collection of fluid.

All boys have a connection between their abdomen and their scrotum before they are born.

By birth, this connection is usually closed. If it stays open, the fluid that surrounds the bowel may trickle down and collect in the scrotum (see figure 1).

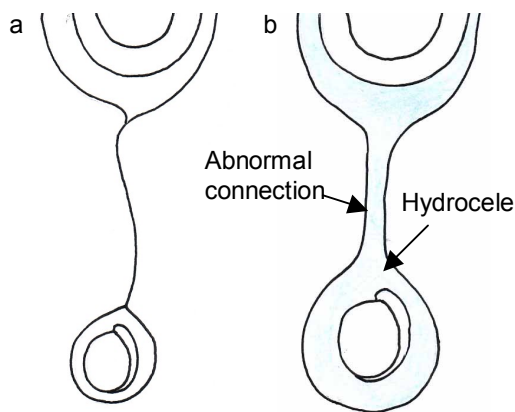


Figure 1

a The connection between the abdomen and the testicle usually closes

b Sometimes the connection remains open, leading to fluid collecting around the testicle

### What are the benefits of surgery?

Your child should no longer have the hydrocele.

### Are there any alternatives to surgery?

Surgery is usually recommended if the connection has not closed by the time the child is three to four years old.

### What does the operation involve?

Most hydroceles in children are repaired through a cut in the groin. The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic. Your surgeon will find the connection and tie it off.

### What complications can happen?

#### 1 General complications of any operation

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Infection in the surgical wound
- Unsightly scarring

#### 2 Specific complications of this operation

- Developing a lump under the wound
- Injury to nerves that supply the skin around the groin
- Damage to the blood supply of the testicle or the tube that carries sperm

### How soon will my child recover?

Most children go home the same day. Your child will usually be well enough to return to school after a week or so. In a small number of cases the hydrocele can come back.

### Summary

A hydrocele is a common condition where fluid collects around a testicle. Surgery is usually recommended if a hydrocele continues beyond the first three to four years of life.

## Further information

You can get further information from:

- [www.aboutmyhealth.org](http://www.aboutmyhealth.org) - for support and information you can trust
- NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 (0845 606 46 47 - textphone)
- [www.eidohealthcare.com](http://www.eidohealthcare.com)

## Acknowledgements

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**This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.**



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