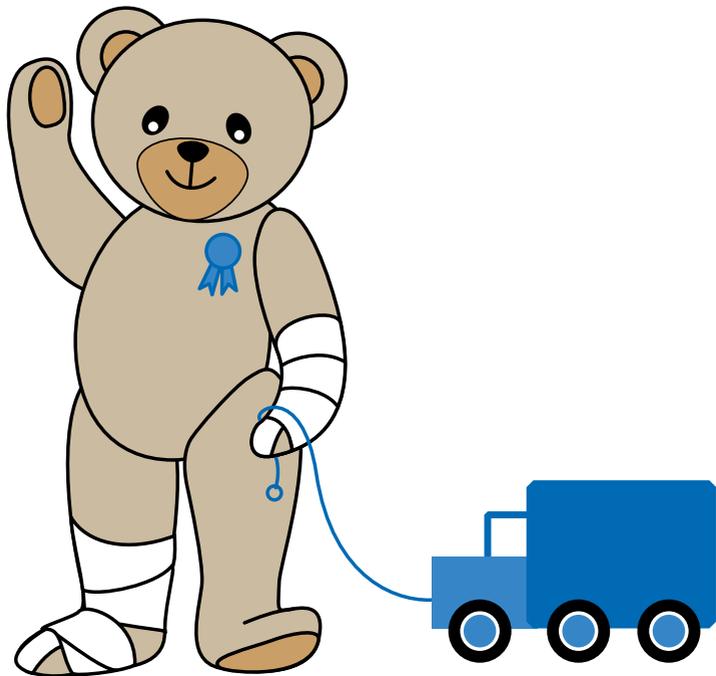


Hydrocele repair

Paediatric Day Surgery Unit



Patient information leaflet

What is a Hydrocele Repair?

This is the procedure that corrects the swelling of the scrotum that happens when you have a Hydrocele.

What is a Hydrocele?

A hydrocele is an accumulation of fluid around the testicle(s).

Are there any alternative treatments?

Aspiration (removing the fluid) is an alternative to surgery; however this is only a temporary measure and does pose a risk of secondary infection.

Why is the procedure performed?

The surgeon may recommend the procedure because

- It becomes too large
- Is causing problems
- Is painful/uncomfortable
- Is infected

What will the wound look like?

The wound will be small and may be covered with a dressing. This will need to stay on for 3-4 days (or for as long as surgeon requests).

Will there be stitches?

Children's stitches are usually dissolvable and do not need to be removed. They should start to dissolve within 1-3 weeks. During this time you may see small pieces of the stitch material poking out of the healing wound. **DO NOT** be tempted to pull these.

If the stitches cause him pain or discomfort please contact your GP.

If steri-strips have been used and have not fallen off within seven days, they can be gently removed after a bath.

When can he bathe?

The wound must be clean and dry for the first three – four days (or as long as your child's surgeon advises).

General points to remember:

- If possible have showers not baths
- Don't use bathing products directly over the wound
- Dry the surrounding area carefully by patting gently but allow the wound to air dry
- Once the wound has healed gently rubbing petroleum jelly or a fragrance free moisturiser into the scar helps to reduce how noticeable it is.

What can he wear?

Dress as normal, but do try to avoid tight waistbands. He may find some support by wearing "Y-fronts" rather than boxer shorts.

Will it be painful?

Some pain/discomfort maybe felt initially so give him regular Paracetamol and Ibuprofen for pain relief according to his age. If he needs anything stronger, this will be provided by the ward.

Give regularly for the first 48 hours and then as necessary.

Next dose Paracetamol:

Next dose Ibuprofen:

When can he go back to school?

It is advisable to keep him off school for at least one week. He should avoid boisterous activities such as football, skate boarding or bicycling and should avoid swimming until the wound is completely healed.

Will there be any complications?

Hydrocele repairs are generally safe. If he experiences any of the following contact his GP

- Increased pain
- Increased bruising/swelling
- If you suspect an infection

Will he need a follow-up appointment?

If a follow up is required this will be sent to you.

General Practitioner's (GP) letter

A letter will be sent to his GP giving brief detail of his admission. You will be given a copy of this on discharge.

Reference sources

- www.urologyinformation.co.uk
- www.bupa.co.uk
- MedlinePlus

If you have any worries that are not covered by this information leaflet, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact details

If you require further advice, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Day Surgery Unit

Telephone: 01483 406783 (Monday to Friday, 8am–8pm)

Hascombe Children's Ward

Telephone: 01483 464071 (24 hours)

Accident & Emergency

Telephone: 01483 464156 (24 hours)

If you are seriously concerned about your child, please take them to Accident & Emergency.

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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