

What to do if you have a problem

If you have any of the problems listed below please contact:

Ward 4F on 0151 430 1791

- If the operation sites start to bleed and will not stop
- If your child has pain that is not helped by the pain relief you are giving them
- If the operation site becomes red or swollen and feels hotter than the surrounding skin
- If there is oozing (leakage of fluid) from the operation sites

Further information about
St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals can be
found on the website below:

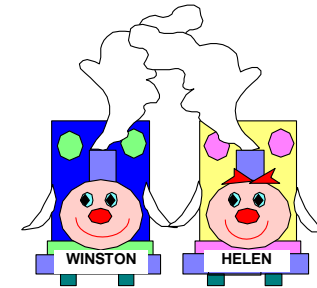
www.sthk.nhs.uk

This leaflet can be made available in alternative languages/formats
on request

Creation Date – February 2008
Next Review Date – June 2018
Produced by Paediatric Department

Paediatric Department

0151 430 1791



**Orchidopexy
(Operation for
undescended testes)**

Patient information leaflet

**Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road
Prescot L35 5DR**

Reasons for the procedure

Before birth the testes develop in the abdomen and usually travel down into the scrotum just before birth. Sometimes one or both of the testicles fails to do this.

Undescended testes do not interfere with any other body functions but, if they are not brought down into the correct position in the scrotum, there is a risk of them becoming twisted (torsion). This can be painful and may cause damage to the testicles resulting in a problem with fertility in the future.

Nature of the procedure

During the operation a cut is made in the groin. The testicle and its connecting tubes are freed and moved down into the scrotum. A second cut is made in the scrotum and the testicle is stitched into its correct position. The skin is stitched up in both places.

This operation is known as 'Orchidopexy'.

Benefits of the procedure

The testis will be able to develop fully, and the risk of a twist (torsion) is reduced.

Risks of the procedure

Every operation carries a risk of complications, but this is very small. These complications will be discussed with you when you are asked to sign the consent form. This is your opportunity to ask the surgeon any questions you may have about the operation and after care.

Discomforts of the procedure

After anaesthetic your child could feel sick and vomit, have a headache, sore throat or feel dizzy. These effects are short lived. There will be tenderness and bruising around the two wounds.

Pain relief like paracetamol will help. Follow the instructions given to you on the bottle, and as explained by your nurse.

Alternatives to the procedure

None. If you leave things as they are, the testicle will not come down any further.

Consequences of not having the procedure

The testicles will not develop properly if left in the abdomen. It would be impossible to check for testicular cancer, as the testicles cannot be felt in the abdomen later on as an adult.

After discharge

- Once your child is fully awake and has had something to eat and drink he will be able to go home.
- At home your child may have some discomfort. He can be given paracetamol to ease this. You may need to give this regularly for 2 to 3 days.
- There may be some bruising or swelling in the groin and scrotum but this should go after a few days. **The stitches will dissolve in 7 to 10 days.**
- Keep the operation sites **clean and dry for 2 to 3 days**, after which your child can bath or shower. Do not let them soak in the bath for long periods until the stitches have dissolved.
- We recommend wearing snug fitting underpants to give support.
- Your child should avoid PE or riding a bike or other sit-on toys **for 4 to 6 weeks.**
- Your child should be well enough to **go back to school or nursery after about 10 days.**
- Make an appointment to see your Practice Nurse **in 5 to 7 days** to check the wound.