



Hydrocele Repair

Discharge instructions for home

A hydrocele repair is an operation to keep fluid from collecting around your child's testicle(s).

When may my child eat?

- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up) are common after surgery. If this occurs, a clear liquid diet given slowly will help.
- When fully awake, your child may have clear liquids like 7-Up, Jell-O, Popsicles and apple juice.
- If your child is not sick to his stomach or throwing up and he is fully awake, your child may then start his regular diet.

How do I care for the surgery site?

The incision(s) should look clean and dry. A little blood under the dressing (bandage) is normal. There will be some swelling around the incision(s), which should go down within a few days.

- The groin incision(s) may be covered with small tapes (Steri-Strips) and a clear dressing. These should be left in place. If the dressing curls up at the ends, it can be trimmed.
- The dressing and strips can be removed in one week. Bathing will help loosen it.
- The stitches will dissolve; they do not need to be removed.

How much activity can my child do?

- Watch your child closely today.
- For 5 to 6 days after a hydrocele repair, babies and toddlers need to have their bottom supported when picking them up. Support your child's trunk and legs so that stomach muscles are not pulled or stretched.
- Older children should limit their own activity. They should avoid rough play, contact sports and bicycle riding for at least one week.
- Sponge-bathe only for the first 48 hours after surgery. After that, your child can go back to normal bathing.

What should I give my child for pain?

- Discomfort is common right after surgery, but it should get better after the first day.
- Start with regular Tylenol (acetaminophen), but use the prescription medicine if the pain persists. Tylenol and prescription pain medicine may not be safe to use at the same time. Check with your child's doctor or pharmacy if you have any questions.

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To Learn More

- Urology
206-987-2509
- Ask your child's nurse or doctor
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers
206-987-2280 (TTY)

- Wait at least 4 hours between doses.

When should I call a doctor?

If your child is having any problems, call our office at 206-987-2509 during the day. After hours, call 206-987-2000 and ask the hospital operator for Urology.

Call us if your child has any of these warning signs:

- Fever higher than 101.5°F (38.6°C)
- Redness, swelling or discharge (fluid) from the wound
- Rapid swelling or bleeding at the site of surgery
- Severe, constant pain at the surgery site
- Inability to pee in 8 to 12 hours
- Vomiting.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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