

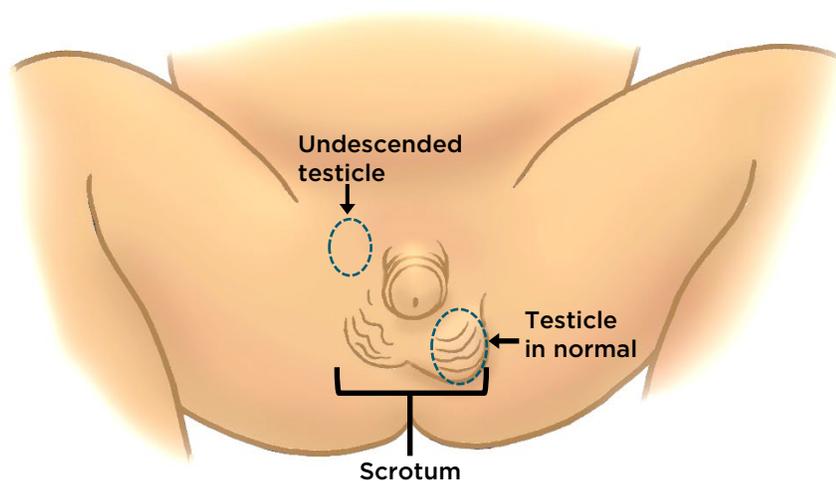
Undescended Testicles (UDT)

An undescended testicle (UDT) is when a testicle (or both) stay inside of your child's abdomen (belly area) instead of moving down into the scrotum.

What are undescended testicles or UDT?

Testicles, also called testes, are two oval shaped glands in males that sit in the scrotum, the sac of skin below the penis. They make sperm and produce hormones. Before a baby is born, the testicles grow inside the body, near the kidneys. During the last few months of pregnancy, they travel down into the scrotum.

Undescended testicles, also called UDT or cryptorchidism (kript-ORK-id-izm), are testicles that are not in the scrotum and cannot be gently pushed or coaxed down into the sac.



An undescended testicle stays in the belly area

How do I know if my child has an UDT?

The best way to know if your child has an UDT is by doing a physical exam. A testicle ultrasound is not necessary.

If your child's testicle or testicles are not in their scrotum, your child's provider will try to gently push the testicle down from the abdomen (belly area). To do this, they may put lotion on their fingertips and then slide their hand along the area of your child's belly from where the testicles descended. They will start putting firm pressure near the kidney and move down to the scrotum to feel for the testicle and see if it's palpable.

The best examination occurs when your child is relaxed and perhaps distracted with items proper to their age. Many times, we can arrange to have a Child Life Therapist to help support your child with this exam.

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To Learn More

- Urology
206-987-2509
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your 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.

How is the UDT treated?

If your child's testicle has not descended (moved down) by age 6 months, surgery is recommended. The surgery to bring down the testicle or testicles into your child's scrotum is called orchiopexy (or-kee-oh-PEK-see).

During the procedure, your child will be given general anesthesia, so they will be fully asleep. Depending on the location of the testicle, one or two small incisions (cuts) are made in the scrotum, the groin, or the abdomen to allow the surgeon to reach the testicle and move it to the scrotum. The surgeon will use very fine stitches. The stitches are dissolvable (dissolve in the skin) so they don't need to be removed. The stitches may take several weeks to dissolve.

Why is surgery recommended for UDT?

Testicles that stay inside the abdomen or groin area at all times can develop problems. Surgery is recommended for the following reasons:

- It gives the testicles the best chance for growth and sperm development.
- The testicle is less likely to have testicle torsion (twist).
- The descended testicle will allow for monthly testicle exams when your child is an adolescent and an adult.

What should I expect the day of surgery?

This is a one-day surgery which means that your child will go home with you on the same day. Your surgeon and nurses will tell you how to care for your child at home after their surgery.