

Having surgery to repair a scrotal hydrocele

Department of Urology

Information for patients

Last reviewed: January 2026

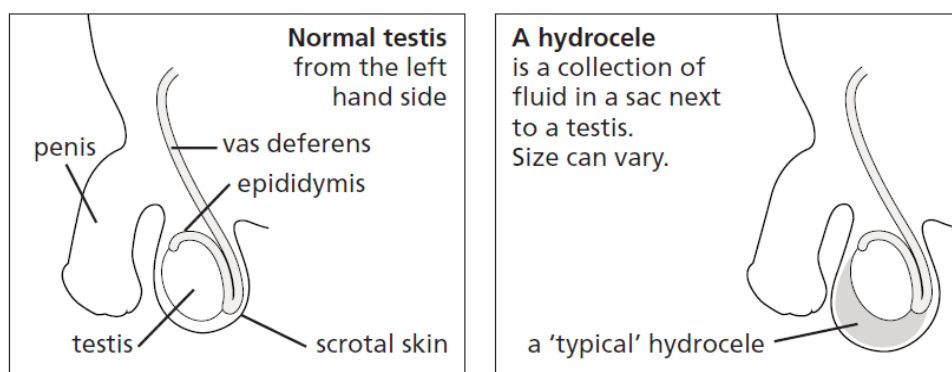
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What is a scrotal hydrocele and how is it repaired?

A hydrocele is a collection of fluid in a sac in the scrotum next to a testis. It usually occurs on one side, but sometimes a hydrocele forms over both testes.

Surgery for a hydrocele involves making a very small cut in the scrotum (or lower abdominal wall). The fluid is then drained from around the testicle. The passage between the abdomen and scrotum will also be sealed off so the fluid cannot collect again in the future.



Are there any possible complications?

As with all procedures there are risks. These include:

- **Swelling** - caused by bleeding into the scrotum. This swelling will go down once the fluid is absorbed back into the bloodstream.
- **Bruising and bleeding** - your scrotum may become quite bruised and sore. The bruising should start to go down after a few days.
- **Wound infection** - you may need treatment with antibiotics.

You will be able to talk about all these risks with the doctors and nursing staff before you consent to your operation.

Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice

Visit www.uhleicester.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals.
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net

Are there any other options?

If the hydrocele causes no symptoms, one option is to leave it alone. If it becomes larger or troublesome, you can always change your mind and have treatment at a later date.

Important information

Please read the following important information:

- If you are ill, or cannot keep your appointment for any other reason, please let us know **as early as possible**. Another patient may benefit from the cancellation of your appointment.
- If you feel worried or nervous and want to talk to someone, please feel free to ring the nurses on the Day Case Unit (Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 9.00pm).

Leicester General Hospital: 0116 258 4192 (Day Case 1) / 0116 258 8130 (Day Case 2)

Outside these hours contact Urology Emergency Admissions (24 hours a day, 7 days a week): **0116 258 4247**

What happens before my procedure?

You will be seen in a pre-assessment clinic at some point. This is to make sure you are fit for day surgery. At this appointment the nurse will go through your paperwork with you. We will give you information about your procedure.

We will talk to you about the consent form that you will be asked to sign to give the surgeon permission to carry out your procedure. This appointment is a good time to ask any questions you may have. Please write these down if that will help.

Depending on your general health and your age, we may need to carry out some tests. These will be discussed with you. They may include an electrocardiograph (heart tracing / ECG), screening swabs and blood tests.

If you are taking any medication, please bring it with you.

What arrangements do I need to make?

Your procedure is planned to be done as a day case procedure, so you should go home the same day. The procedure will be done under general anaesthetic (whilst you are asleep). You need to plan the following things:

- You must be collected by a responsible adult. They must take you home in a car or taxi after your procedure.
- You must have a responsible adult at home with you for at least 24 hours after your procedure.
- You must have a phone at home.

You **must not**

- drive,
- cycle,

- operate machinery or
- drink alcohol

for at least 48 hours after your procedure.

Important: Driving after an anaesthetic is a criminal offence and will affect your insurance cover.

What do I need to do before my procedure?

- Read your admission letter carefully.
- Do not eat or drink anything from the time stated in your letter.
- Do not wear contact lenses.
- Do not wear any jewellery, except for a wedding ring.
- Do not bring any valuables with you into hospital. University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to personal belongings.
- Do have a bath or shower before you come into hospital.
- Do wear comfortable clothing and supportive underwear to go home in.

Expect to wait on the unit before your procedure.

What do I need to bring with me?

On the day of your procedure please bring with you:

- Your appointment letter. The time you are given to arrive is not the time of your procedure. The surgeon needs to see you before the start of the list. You may be waiting for your procedure for a few hours.
- Any drugs, medicines or inhalers you are using. Please take your necessary medication before you come in. The pre-assessment nurse will advise you when you should take your medication.
- A contact number for your lift home.
- A dressing gown and slippers, if you have them.
- Something to do while you are waiting, such as a book or magazine to read.

What will happen while I am on the Day Case Unit?

- Come to the Day Case Unit and report to reception. Your details will be checked. You will be directed on to the ward or to the waiting room where a nurse will collect you.
- The nurse will talk to you about your procedure. They will ask you a few questions.
- You will meet one of the surgical team who will ask you to sign a consent form. If there is anything you are worried about or do not understand, please ask your surgeon before you sign the form.

- You will also be visited by your anaesthetist. This is the doctor who will look after you while you are asleep.
- The nurse will tell you when to change into your theatre gown. They will then take you to the operating theatre.

What happens after my procedure?

You will return to the day ward. Staff will make sure you are comfortable. They will offer you refreshments. If you have any discomfort or sickness please let the staff know so that they can help you.

You will recover on the ward until your nurse is happy that you are well enough to go home. You will need to eat and drink before you can go home. Sometimes patients need to stay in overnight. If your doctor or nurse feels that this is necessary, they will explain to you the reasons for this.

Wound care

- Your wound will have dissolvable stitches (they do not need to be removed). Your surgeon may also have put a dressing over the wound. Do not touch it for 48 hours.
- You should keep your wound dry for 48 hours.
- After 48 hours you can have a bath or shower as normal. You can remove the dressing.
- After your bath or shower, gently rinse the wound with clean water. Do not rub the wound. Then carefully pat it dry with a clean towel. Wearing close-fitting underwear will help to support the wound.
- Always keep the wound clean and dry. Do not be tempted to touch or pick the stitches. It takes about 1 and 2 weeks to heal. Your stitches could take up to 4 weeks to dissolve.
- Bruising and slight redness around the wound is usual. It will not affect the healing. If you notice any increasing redness, swelling or discharge from the wound, you should contact the Day Case Unit for advice.

Pain

You may have some pain after your procedure. You will need to buy some painkillers such as paracetamol. Ask a pharmacist if you need advice about this.

- Take painkillers when the pain starts. Do not wait for it to get really bad.
- Take painkillers before you go to sleep so you are able to rest.
- If your pain is very bad take the painkillers regularly, (4 times a day) so they keep your pain under control.
- Take painkillers when you wake up, so they are working before you get out of bed.
- Painkillers can cause constipation, You should drink plenty of water. Eat high fibre foods such as fruit, vegetables and cereals.
- Everyone is different. Do not be surprised if you are still having some pain for a 1 or 2 weeks. This is quite normal.



Going home

Driving

You must not drive for at least 48 hours after a general anaesthetic. You will not be covered by your car insurance. Do not drive until you can keep control of your car in an emergency. It may be over a week before you are able to safely drive.

You should contact your insurance company if you are not sure.

Work

The amount of time you need to be off work depends on your job, but will usually be between 1 and 2 weeks. Please discuss this with your surgeon or nurse.

Sex

You should avoid sexual activity until your wound is completely healed. This could be about 4 to 6 weeks after the operation.

Physical activity

Do not do too much too soon. It is usual to feel some aches and pains for a few days, perhaps up to 2 weeks. (Avoid strenuous activity, contact sports and heavy lifting for at least 2 weeks).

Holidays

Flying too soon after a procedure can increase the chance of problems. You may not be covered by your insurance. Please discuss this with your insurance company.

Contact details

If you go home and have any issues or concerns please contact:

Day case unit 1 0116 258 4192

Day case unit 2 0116 258 8130

Urology Triage/SDEC 0116 258 8293. They are open Mon to Fri 8am to 6pm. Outside these hours please call NHS111, your GP or come to the Emergency Department.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk