

HYDROCELECTOMY

Introduction

The testicle is contained within a sac known as the tunica vaginalis, which secretes a small amount of lubricating fluid. Excess fluid can accumulate and form a collection or swelling known as a hydrocele. Hydroceles may be caused by trauma, surgery or infection; most are discovered incidentally without an obvious cause. Large bulky hydroceles may cause discomfort and interfere with activities or sport.

What are the alternatives?

Aspiration or Observation

What does the procedure involve?

Under general anaesthetic, a small cut is made in the scrotum and the fluid drained. The tunica vaginalis is turned inside out, excess sac trimmed off and the edges sewn together. The incision is closed with absorbable stitches and tissue glue applied.

What are the risks of surgery?

Common (>10%)

Mild bruising, discomfort and swelling

Occasional (2-10%)

Bleeding, infection or recurrence

Rare (2%)

Anaesthetic or cardiorespiratory problems requiring intensive care

What should I do before surgery?

- Do not eat, drink, or chew gum for 6 hours before surgery
- If you are on blood thinning medication, discuss this with Dr Ooi

What should I expect after surgery?

Please arrange for someone to pick you up and keep you company for 24 hours. Wear supportive underwear with hand towels packed inside to compress and elevate the scrotum for the first few days. Use pain killers and apply ice packs for 5-10 minutes at a time to reduce discomfort and swelling. Avoid straddling on a seat, sexual intercourse, swimming, sporting activities and strenuous exercise for 2-4 weeks. Please contact Dr Ooi's rooms, the hospital, ward or nurse manager if you have any concerns, such as excessive pain, bleeding, wound issues, fever or feel unwell. General advice is also available on our website in the Procedures section.