

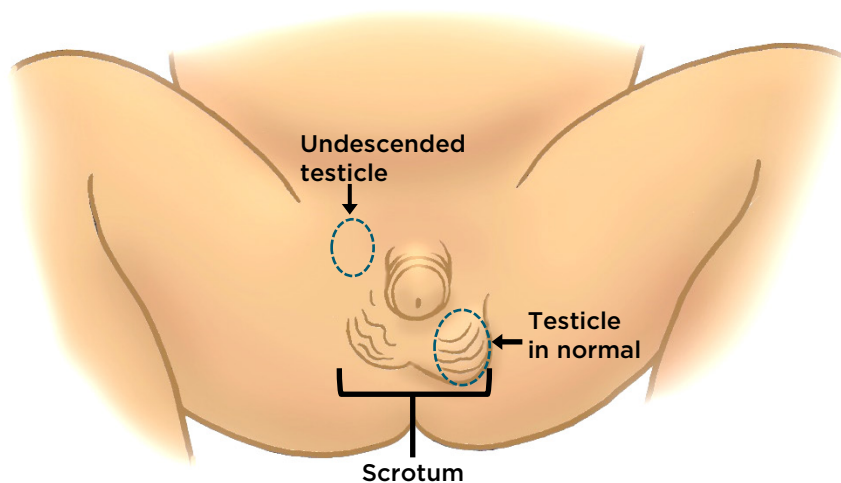
Undescended Testicles (UDT)

An undescended testicle (UDT) is when 1 or both testicles stay inside of your child's belly area (abdomen) instead of moving down into the scrotum.

What are undescended testicles or UDT?

Testicles (or testes) are 2 oval shaped glands in babies born with a penis. They sit in the sac of skin below the penis (the scrotum). 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, in most babies, they travel down into the scrotum.

Undescended testicles, also called UDT or cryptorchidism (kript-ORK-id-izm), do not move into the scrotum. They cannot be gently pushed 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(s) are not in their scrotum, we will try to gently push the testicle down from the belly area (abdomen). To do this, the provider 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 (see if it's palpable).

It is best if your child is relaxed and perhaps distracted with a toy or device. 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.



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How is the UDT treated?

- If your child's testicle has not moved down (descended) by age 6 months, we recommend surgery. The surgery to bring down the testicle(s) into your child's scrotum is called orchiopexy (or-kee-oh-PEK-see).
- During the procedure, we will give your child medicine (general anesthesia), so they will be fully asleep and not feel pain. Depending on the location of the testicle, we make 1 or 2 small cuts (incisions) in the scrotum, the groin or the abdomen. This allows the surgeon to reach the testicle and move it to the scrotum.
- To close the incision, the surgeon will use very fine stitches. The stitches dissolve in the skin, but it may take several weeks. We don't need to remove them.

Why is surgery recommended for UDT?

Testicles that always stay inside the abdomen or groin area can develop problems. We recommend surgery for the following reasons:

- It gives the testicles the best chance for growth and sperm development.
- The testicle is less likely to twist (have testicle torsion).
- 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?

Your child will go home with you on the same day as the surgery. Your surgeon and nurses will tell you how to care for your child at home after their surgery.