

Retractile Testicles



Urology Clinic

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What is a retractile testicle?

Retractile testicle(s) is a condition that is sometimes mistaken for undescended testicles, but they are not the same. For example, in response to a cold hand or an ultrasound exam probe, a muscle in the canal contracts and pulls the testicle up. This situation is temporary. The testicle returns to the scrotum when it is warm and the muscles relax. An undescended testicle is not felt in the scrotum at all.

What causes a retractile testicle?

Each testicle is attached to a muscle called the cremaster muscle. The cremaster muscle can contract inside the body causing the testicle to be pulled out of the scrotum; this is called the cremasteric reflex. This is a normal reflex seen in males.

How is this diagnosed?

Generally, there are no symptoms related to retractile testicles. It may appear that the scrotum sac is empty on one side or both and that you cannot see the testicle. Your pediatric Urologist is able to diagnose a retractile testis during a physical exam, ultrasound is not generally necessary. If the testicle can be guided into the scrotum and remain there easily, the testicles are considered retractile.

Follow-up

We may ask to see your child in the Urology Clinic for another exam in 6 months to 1 years time to monitor for any changes. Often no further follow up is required.



If you have any concerns, you may contact the Urology Nurse Clinician at 604-875-2889