

**Patient
Information**

Hydrocele (Ligation of Patent Processus Vaginalis)

Introduction

Your child has been admitted for an operation to treat his hydrocele. This leaflet will give you information about the operation and what to expect when your child has been discharged.

What is a hydrocele?

A hydrocele is a collection of fluid around the testis, which has formed due to a persistent small channel connecting it to the abdominal cavity (technically called a patent processus vaginalis). Although this is not a harmful condition, it needs correcting to prevent increasing swelling.

The operation

Your child will have a general anaesthetic as well as local anaesthetic to reduce any discomfort after the operation. Your child will be asleep during the operation.

The hydrocele is treated by closing (or ligating) the channel described in the section above and draining the fluid collection (ligation of the patent processus vaginalis).

This is done through a small cut in the groin, which is then closed using dissolvable stitches, and a waterproof glue dressing is applied.

After the operation

Your child will stay in the theatre recovery area for a period of time. You will be able to join him there and then accompany him back to the ward. When he has recovered from the anaesthetic, he will be able to drink and eat. Once he is comfortable, he will be allowed home.

Reference No.

GHPI0982_11_21

Department

Paediatrics

Review due

November 2024

**Patient
Information****After discharge**

Your child will have some bruising and swelling from the operation; both in the groin and scrotum. This should settle within a few days.

Your child should have a week off school/nursery and avoid contact sports, such as football, for 2 weeks.

Simple pain relief including paracetamol and ibuprofen can be given until the discomfort has settled. Please follow the instructions on the packet.

If needed, a follow up appointment will be arranged.

If you have any concerns during the first night at home, you should contact the Paediatric Assessment Unit. After this, please refer to your GP for advice.

Contact information**Paediatric Assessment Unit**

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 8305

PAU Nursing Coordinator

Mob: 07798695981

First night after surgery only

Further information

For further information, please visit our website:

www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/our-wards/paediatric-day-unit/

Content reviewed November 2021