

## Fast Facts

### Hydrocele

- When a man or boy has swelling of the scrotum due to fluid collection around the thin sheath of the testicle
  - Causes vary depending on age
  - Common condition for male infants
- Normal fetal growth involves the testicles descending from the abdominal cavity into the scrotum. During this time, a sac containing fluid accompanies each testicle. This fluid usually gets absorbed after the sac closes
  - Sometimes, the fluid is still there after the sac closes (noncommunicating hydrocele)
- If the sac stays open, this means the fluid can flow back and forth between the abdomen and scrotum resulting in the swelling fluctuating (communicating hydrocele)
  - Usually, the fluid is absorbed within the child's first year of life
- Adult men can develop due to an injury or inflammation (from an infection in the testicle or epididymis—the small, coiled tube at the back of each testicle)
  - One risk for acquiring an infection is having a sexually transmitted infection (STI)
  - Isn't usually dangerous and doesn't impact fertility in most cases

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<p><i>Infants/Young Boys:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Painless swelling</li> <li>-Swelling size may fluctuate</li> </ul> <p><i>Men:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Heaviness feeling in scrotum</li> <li>-Swelling gets progressively worse throughout the day</li> <li>-Pain if cause is inflammation</li> </ul>	<p><i>Infants/Young Boys:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Monitor to see if it improves</li> <li>-Surgical removal if no improvement</li> </ul> <p><i>Men:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Treat underlying cause</li> <li>-Surgical removal if necessary</li> </ul>	<p><i>Infants/Young Boys:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Nothing</li> </ul> <p><i>Men:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reduce risk of injury and inflammation</li> <li>-Practice safe sex habits (ex. using a new condom every time you have sex)</li> <li>-Drink plenty of fluids, like water, to stay hydrated and encourage good urinary function to prevent a urinary tract infection, which can cause an infection in the testicles</li> </ul>

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