

Orchidectomy or Removal of a Testicle

When this procedure is performed for presumed cancer of the testicle, a small cut is usually made in the groin area of the affected side, and the testicle removed. Occasionally, testicle(s) may be removed for other reasons and some surgeons prefer to make a cut in the scrotum to do this. Either way, it is possible for a false testicle to be implanted at this time. Please discuss this with your medical team prior to the day of your operation.

These operations are usually, but not always, performed on a day-case basis, i.e. admitted and discharged home on the same day. When you have had a general anaesthetic or sedation it is important that you do not drive a car, drink alcohol or handle machinery for 24 hours post-op. You should therefore arrange for someone to collect you from hospital.

Prior to discharge you will be prescribed a course of pain killers and will likely already be wearing some kind of scrotal support e.g. a jock strap. You should take the painkillers as prescribed even if things do not seem too uncomfortable. You may have a small amount of swelling following the operation, even slight bruising of your scrotum. Resting as much as possible for a few days, particularly with your legs elevated, is very important and will aid healing and prevent excessive swelling of your scrotal area.

About 24 hours after surgery you may bath or shower, allowing the water to soak off the wound dressing. Avoid the use of bubble baths and scented soaps. Dry yourself carefully afterwards.

You may have oozing from the wound site for a few days. However, if:

- the ooze from the wound changes to a yellow/green colour with or without an offensive smell
- the wound site becomes very red and sore
- scrotal swelling or pain is severe

please contact either your GP's surgery

The stitches are usually dissolvable over 2-3 weeks so will not require removing; check before discharge that this is the case. You may return to work when you feel comfortable and know that you can cope with the activities that your job entails. Avoid sex until the wound is healed and you are pain free.