Management of Undescended Testicles

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Introduction

Purpose

Testicles are considered undescended when they fail to spontaneously migrate down into the scrotum after birth. Boys with bilateral, non-palpable testes, associated or not with hypospadias, require immediate consult of appropriate specialists, including Endocrinology, Urology, Gynecology and/or Genetics for evaluation of a possible disorder of sex development.

Target Users

• Nurses, nurse practitioners, staff physicians, residents, fellows, and primary care physicians

Target Patient Population

• Inclusion: Intended for boys 2 months of age or older who present with one testicle that is not palpable within the scrotum.
• Exclusion: Not intended for use in boys with bilateral undescended testicles.

Definitions

• Retractile testes: hypermobile testes; are descended testes that easily move back and forth between the scrotum and the abdomen. Retractile testes are normal testes that have been pulled into a suprascrotal position by the cremasteric reflex. These testes can be brought into a dependent scrotal position and will remain there if the cremasteric reflex is overcome.

Referrals

• Primary care physicians should refer boys two months of age or older who do not have spontaneous testicular descent to a surgical specialist for evaluation. It is expected that the testicles should descend by 6 months of age.
• Scrotal ultrasounds should not be completed prior to referral. These studies rarely have any impact on decision making.
• Retractile testicles do not need to be referred for surgical treatment however primary care physicians should assess the position of the testes annually to monitor for secondary ascent.
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Clinical Recommendations

Guideline Group and Reviewers

Guideline Group Membership:
1. Kristine Tomczyk, NP-Paediatrics, Urology
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Internal Reviewers:
1. Dr. Darius Bagli, Staff MD, Division of Urology
2. Dr. Joana Dos Santos, Staff MD, Division of Urology

References

Attachments:

AAP orchidopexy.pdf
AUA guidelines orchidopexy.pdf
CUA-PUC guidelines.pdf
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