

Scrotal Swelling

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Non-acute scrotal swellings

Introduction

- May be noted incidentally by the patient while bathing or while performing a self-examination
- May be associated with discomfort
- Causes related to testis, epididymis, spermatic cord or scrotal wall

Causes

Structure Involved Pathology

Scrotal wall
Haematoma

Urinary extravasation

Oedema from cardiac, hepatic or renal failure

Testis
Tumour

Epididymis
Epididymitis

Spermatic cord
Hydrocoele

Inguinal Hernia

Varicocoele

Lipoma

Definition of Terms

Haematoma: A localized collection of blood, usually clotted, in an organ, space or tissue, due to a break in the wall of a blood vessel. Urinary extravasation: A discharge or escape of urine into the tissues. Oedema: The presence of abnormally large amounts of fluid in the subcutaneous tissues. Epididymitis: Inflammation of the epididymis, usually the result of bacterial infection. Tumour: An abnormal mass of tissue that results from excessive cell division that is uncontrolled and progressive. Malignant tumours tend to infiltrate into adjacent tissue and metastasize to distant organs. Hydrocoele: An accumulation of serous fluid in a sac-like cavity adjacent the testicle, a swelling due to the accumulation of serous fluid in the tunica vaginalis of the testis or in the spermatic cord. Inguinal Hernia: The abnormal passage of an internal abdominal organ or structure through the inguinal canal. Varicocele: Varicose veins in the scrotum. Lipoma: Benign tumour of fat.

Management

A history regarding the onset of the mass, progression, and associated pain as well as the physical examination is helpful in distinguishing the various causes.

An ultrasound examination of the scrotum may also be useful in determining the cause.

Management depends on the cause.

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