

INCLUSION CRITERIA

Male patients birth to 18 years of age presenting with unilateral or bilateral testicle(s) not palpable within the scrotum.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Female sex assigned at birth
- Patients with testicular/scrotal pain, swelling or erythema (Refer to **Testicular/Scrotal Pain Pathway**)

MEASURES

- Decrease number of patients who receive a testicular ultrasound prior to Urology referral
- Age at time of Urology referral

INITIAL ASSESSMENT¹

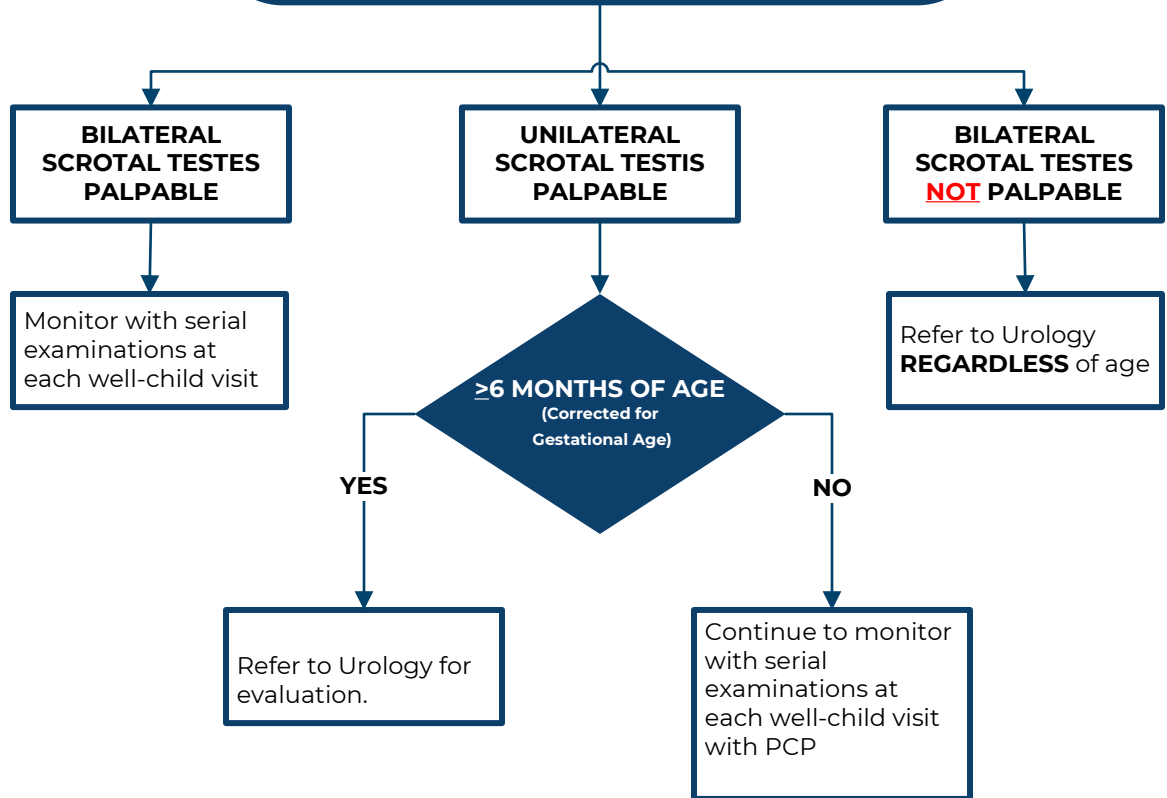
History should include:

- Gestational age
- Were testicles noted at birth
- Has the testicle ever been seen/felt in the scrotum
- Family history of undescended testes

INITIAL ASSESSMENT¹

- Assess history and perform physical exam

Based on exam findings, determine next steps accordingly



Scrotal ultrasounds should NOT be completed prior to referral

Disclaimer: The clinical pathways are based upon publicly available medical evidence and/or a consensus of medical practitioners at Nemours Children's Health ("Nemours") and are current at the time of publication. These clinical pathways are intended to be a guide for practitioners and may need to be adapted for each specific patient based on the practitioner's professional judgment, consideration of any unique circumstances, the needs of each patient and their family, and/or the availability of various resources at the health care institution where the patient is located.

VERSION MANAGEMENT

- Version 1.0 (9/15/2026): Go Live.

Questions about this pathway should be directed to **clinicalpathways@nemours.org**.

AUTHORS & REFERENCES

Delaware Valley Authors: Ernesto Figueroa (Urology), Puneeta Ramachandra (Urology), Monique Devens (Emergency Department), Kristina Flathers (Medical Librarian), Michael Reedy (Pharmacy), Terri Moore (Radiology), Jonathan Miller (Primary Care)

Central Florida Authors: Peter Cai (Urology), Pamela Ellsworth (Urology), Kamal Chavda (Emergency Department), Rosemarie Nagy (Pharmacy), Robert Snyder (Primary Care)

- Muraliharan, J.S., Jacob, T.J.K., Bollu, B.K., Graf, N., Sebastian, T. and Thomas, G. (2021), Surgical management of the acute paediatric scrotum: a three-year single centre experience. ANZ Journal of Surgery, 91: 2514-2517. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ans.17231>
- Wang CL, Aryal B, Oto A, Allen BC, Akin O, Alexander LF, et al; Expert Panel on Urological Imaging. ACR Appropriateness Criteria® acute onset of scrotal pain without trauma, without antecedent mass. J Am Coll Radiol. 2019;16(5S):S38-S43. doi:10.1016/j.jacr.2019.02.016
- MacDonald C, Burton M, Carachi R, O'Toole S. Why adolescents delay with presentation to hospital with acute testicular pain: a qualitative study. J Pediatr Surg. 2021;56(3):614-619
- Anderson E, Chaplin WJ, Turner C, et al Experiences and perceptions of acute testicular pain, with a focus on reasons for delayed presentation to hospital: a qualitative evidence synthesis Emergency Medicine Journal 2025;42:264-270
- Lewis, S., Peeraully, R., Ghazy, E., Corbett, H., Maconochie, I., Kenny, S. and Harwood, R. (2026), A systematic review and meta-analysis to inform the management of children and young people with acute testicular pain. BJU Int, 137: 417-429. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bju.70080>
- Yen CW, Chang YJ, Ming YC, Gau CC, Wu CT, Lee J. Factors determining testicular torsion and consequent orchiectomy in pediatric patients presenting with scrotal pain. Pediatr Emerg Care. 2023;39(10):744-750. doi:10.1097/PEC.0000000000003037
- McBride, C.A. and Patel, B. (2017), Acutely painful scrotum: Tips, traps, tricks and truths. J Paediatr Child Health, 53: 1054-1059. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.13766>
- Bastianpillai C, Ryan K, Hamid S, Li C-Y, Green JSA. Testicular Pain Pathway in Children: Investigating Where Missed Torsion Occurs Most Often Pediatric Emergency Care. 2020;37(12):e1311-e1314. doi:10.1097/PEC.0000000000002026