Orchidopexy
Children’s Ward
Patient information Leaflet
Orchidopexy
Your son is coming into hospital for an orchidopexy. The operation will be carried out under general anaesthetic.

Why does my child need the operation?
Your son needs the operation due to having an undescended testicle, the operation is to move the undescended testicle into the scrotum and permanently fix it there.

What will be the benefit of having the operation?
The benefit is that the testicle will be fixed and there will be symmetry in the scrotum.

Is there an alternative treatment?
The only alternative is not having the procedure done at all, but this carries risks. If the testicle has not descended by the age of six months then it is unlikely that it is going to happen at all. If the operation is not performed the risks are:
• Fertility problems
• Cancer in the undescended testis in the future
• Psychological problems
• Twisting of the testis in the groin

Are there any risks?
There is a small risk of infection and bleeding. There is a minimal risk with a general anaesthetic which you can discuss with your son’s anaesthetist.

What happens during my son’s stay on the ward?
Your son will be admitted to the ward either in the morning or the afternoon; the nursing team will make an assessment, apply two wrist bands and a local anaesthetic cream to your son’s hands if over 1 year and not medically exempt. They will be seen by a doctor if you have not signed the consent form in clinic. Your son will be assessed by the anaesthetist prior to surgery to ensure he is medically fit for theatre. Your son will be on a theatre list but we can only give an approximate guide to when your son will go to theatre. Before the operation your son will be seen by the nursing team, if you have any concerns then please do not hesitate to mention them.

One parent will be able to stay in the anaesthetic room until your son is asleep. On waking your son will be brought back to you on the ward when the recovery team are happy. During the recovery period on the ward your son will be assessed by the nursing team and offered fluids then diet, when safe to do so. Your son may have a cannula in on return to the ward. We
recommend that this is kept in until prior to your child going home as if your son has a bleed or is vomiting I.V. access is available.

**Will my son be in pain?**

Your son will be given pain relief whilst in theatre and can be given regular pain relief whilst back on the ward. If your son is in pain when you get home we recommend getting a simple pain control, if suitable for your son, such as paracetamol (brand names include calpol, dispersol and medinol).

**When can my son go home?**

It is hoped that your son will be in hospital just for the day but as with any operation please prepare for the risk of your son staying overnight. Your son’s fitness for discharge will be assessed by the nursing team or the doctors. Your son will need to have tolerated diet and fluids and passed urine prior to discharge with an approximate stay of two hours post op. If your son needs to stay overnight, one parent can stay overnight. It is recommended that your son does not travel home on public transport therefore alternative arrangements may need to be made for the journey home.

**How do I care for my son after their operation?**

Your son will have stitches at the bottom of the scrotum and occasionally for larger, older children they may have a row of stitches down the groin. If your son has stitches in the groin, they may have a dressing on which can be removed 48 hours after their operation and may shower as normal. As the wound heals it may feel itchy, tingly, lumpy or numb and may pull slightly around the stitches- this is normal and part of the healing process. To help reduce the risk of infection and maintain hygiene your son should have a daily bath. It is advisable not to add anything to the bath water like salt, bubble bath etc. your child may have dissolvable or removable stitches, you will be advised of this prior to discharge. If the stitches are removable your son will be given a practice nurse referral letter for you to make an appointment at their GP surgery to have them removed, normally between 7-14 days after the operation. If your child has dissolvable stitches it is advisable not to let them soak in the bath for long periods, as this will weaken the stitches and prolong the healing process.

You will also need to observe your son’s wound for signs of infection such as:

- Redness
- Swelling
- Discharge
- Excessive pain

Also your son may have symptom a high temperature. If your son has an infection or they have any bleeding contact C2 children’s ward or your G.P. If bleeding is severe please take your son to your nearest Emergency Department.
When should my child return to school and activities?

We recommend that your son stays away from school until their wound check at one week. Your son should not take part in sports and boisterous activities for 4 weeks to allow the healing process to take place.

Further information

If you have any questions or are unsure about any of the information provided in this booklet, please contact the Children’s ward on 01384 244271.
This Information can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 0730510.