

Hydrocele. A hydrocele is a collection of sterile fluid surrounding but not involving one or both testicles. Hydroceles are common in newborns, especially those born prematurely.

A simple hydrocele is basically an isolated sac of fluid and has no connection to the peritoneal cavity (the cavity in which the intestines and other organs reside). A simple hydrocele requires no treatment and will usually resolve within the first year of life.

A “communicating” hydrocele does possess a communication with the peritoneal cavity and in this fashion is similar to a hernia (see picture). This type of hydrocele will not resolve spontaneously and will persist beyond the first year of life, usually changing in size during the course of a day. A communicating hydrocele does require outpatient surgery to remove the communication and drain the fluid as these will only increase in size and difficulty to treat.

Hydroceles may also be diagnosed with ultrasound which is painless and involves no radiation.

To make an appointment to discuss this topic, please call or email at the information listed below.

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