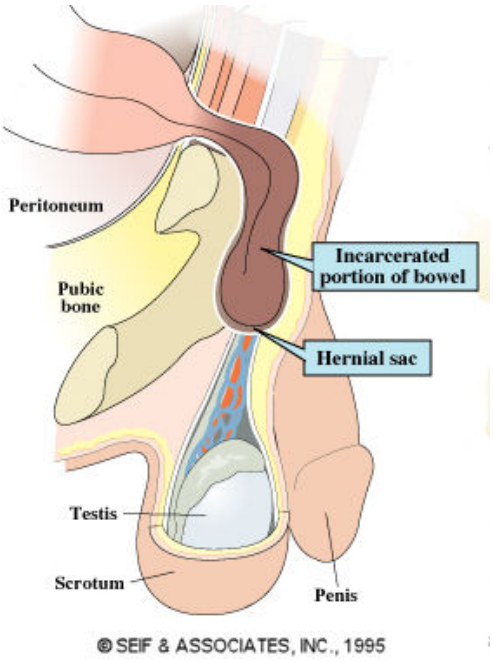
Hernia (Inguinal)

Your child has a groin (*inguinal*) hernia. An inguinal hernia is a hernia located in the groin. About half of these conditions appear before 1 year of age. They occur because the wall of the lower belly (*abdomen*) is weak. You have probably brought your child in because you noticed a bulge in the groin, labial, or testicular area.



Because the hernia connects with the abdomen, the only treatment is a surgical repair. Not having a repair puts the child at risk. The bowel can get stuck in the hernia sack risking injury to the bowel and then causing emergency surgery. You should consider elective surgery (you can pick a convenient time for the procedure).

When the bulge is noticeable to you, do not attempt to force it back in. This could cause damage to the structures inside the bulge (*hernia*) and seriously injure your child. If this happens, you should see your caregiver **immediately** or go directly to your Emergency Department.

Because many hernias are on both sides, your caregiver may schedule both sides for repair during elective surgery.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Your child develops an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C), or as your caregiver suggests.
- Your child appears to have increasing abdominal pain.
- Your child begins vomiting.
- The hernia looks discolored, feels hard, or is tender.

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