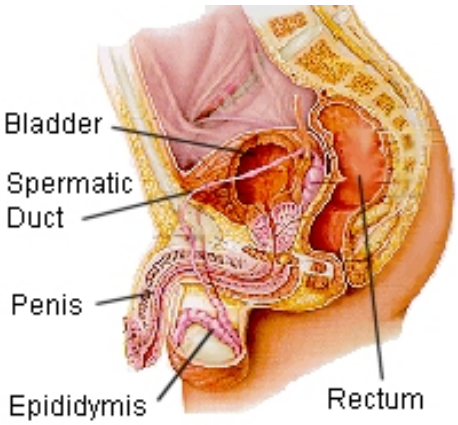
Orchitis

Orchitis is an infection of the testicle of usually *sudden onset* (happens quickly). It may be viral or *bacterial* (caused by germs). Usually with this illness there is generalized *malaise* (not feeling well) and fever. There is also pain. There is usually tenderness and swelling of the scrotum and testicle.



DIAGNOSIS (HOW DO YOU TELL WHAT IS WRONG)

Your caregiver will perform an exam to make sure there is not another reason for the pain in your testicle. A rectal exam may be done to find out if the prostate is swollen and tender. Blood work may be done to see if your white blood cell count is elevated. This can help determine if an infection is viral or bacterial. A urinalysis can also determine what type of infection is present. Most bacterial infections can be treated with *antibiotics* (medications which kill germs).

LET YOUR CAREGIVER KNOW ABOUT THE FOLLOWING

- Allergies
- Medications taken including herbs, eye drops, over the counter medications, and creams
- Use of steroids (by mouth or creams)
- Previous problems with anesthetics or novocaine
- Previous prostate infections
- History of blood clots (thrombophlebitis).
- History of bleeding or blood problems
- Previous surgery
- Previous urinary tract infection
- Other health problems

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Apply cold packs to the scrotal area for twenty minutes, four times per day or as needed.
- A scrotal support may be helpful. Keep a small pillow or support under your testicles while lying or sitting down.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- Take all medications, including antibiotics, as directed. Take the antibiotics for the full prescribed length of time even if you are feeling better.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION IF:

- The redness, swelling, or pain in the testicle increases or is not getting better.
- An oral temperature above 102º F (38.9º C) develops, not controlled by medication.
- You have pain not relieved with medications.
- You have any worsening of any *symptoms* (problems) that originally brought you in for medical care.

Document Released: 04/07/2004 Document Re-Released: 06/05/2009
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