

Simple Scrotal Orchiectomy

Pre-Op Guide for Benign Conditions

Goal: Remove a painful, damaged, infected, or nonfunctional testicle through a scrotal incision. This is generally for benign, non-cancer reasons.

What surgery am I having?

A simple scrotal orchiectomy removes a testicle through an incision in the scrotum.

Common benign reasons

- Chronically painful testicle
- Damaged or nonfunctional testicle
- Prior infection or inflammation
- Other benign conditions where removal is the best option

How this is different

A radical orchiectomy is usually done for a testicular mass concerning for cancer and is performed through a groin incision.

A simple orchiectomy is usually done for benign conditions and is performed through the scrotum.

Before surgery

We will review your history, exam, imaging, and reason for surgery.

Follow the surgery center or hospital instructions about arrival time, eating, drinking, and medications. Let us know if you take blood thinners, aspirin, Plavix, Eliquis, Xarelto, warfarin, or similar medications.

Fertility and testosterone

Most men with one healthy remaining testicle continue to make enough testosterone, and fertility is often maintained if the other testicle is healthy.

If you have one testicle, an abnormal remaining testicle, known fertility problems, or future fertility concerns, please discuss this before surgery.

Possible drain

In some cases, a small soft Penrose drain is left in the scrotum to help fluid or blood drain after surgery. Not every patient needs a drain.

If a drain is placed, expect some drainage onto gauze or underwear. The drain is temporary and will be removed when appropriate.

Recovery planning

Plan for scrotal swelling, bruising, and soreness after surgery. No heavy lifting, strenuous exercise, running, squats, or heavy yard work for about 2-3 weeks. Walking and light daily activity are okay.

Day of surgery

This is usually outpatient surgery. You will need someone to drive you home. Do not drive, make important decisions, or drink alcohol for 24 hours after anesthesia or while taking narcotic pain medication.