

# Orchiectomy Surgery

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## What is Orchiectomy surgery?

An orchiectomy is the removal of one or both testicles.

## What happens during surgery?

When you come to the hospital for surgery, you will have an IV or intravenous tube started. The IV is used to give you fluids and medications. You may have a general or spinal anesthetic:

- with general anesthetic you are asleep during surgery
- with spinal anesthetic you are awake during surgery but cannot feel from the waist down

The anesthesiologist will discuss with you which anesthesia will be best for your surgery.

The surgeon will make a small incision or incisions in your groin or scrotum.

## How will I feel after surgery?

### Pain

You will have pain from the incision after surgery. Your nurse will give you pain medication. When you go home you will be given a prescription for pain medication. Take the medication as ordered by your surgeon.

The incision will be closed with stitches. These stitches will dissolve over time. It is common to have bruising or swelling around the incision.

If your scrotum is swollen after surgery, try:

- putting an ice pack under your scrotum (frozen peas work well)
- putting a rolled towel under your scrotum
- wearing a scrotal support
- wearing jockey type underwear for support

It is important to support your scrotum when you are up and moving around.

### **Nausea**

You may feel nauseated or sick to your stomach, let your nurse know. You can have medication to help. When you are ready to eat, start with light meals and gradually return to your regular diet.

### **Urination**

You will need to urinate before you can leave the hospital.

### **Incision**

You may take a shower the day after your surgery. Leave the tape on the incision, it will slowly fall off.

### **Activity**

When you first get home it is important to rest. Slowly resume your normal activities. Talk with your surgeon as to when you can participate in sports, resume sexual activity and return to work.

## **Follow-up**

Call your surgeon for your follow-up appointment.

## **Call your surgeon if:**

- you have pus or a foul smell from your incision
- you have increasing pain or bleeding
- you have a fever of 38°C (100°F) or higher
- your incision opens
- your incision or scrotum is red or swollen