

SCROTAL PAIN OR SWELLING – ACUTE MANAGEMENT IN THE ED

PRACTICE GUIDELINE[®]

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

Acute scrotal pain or swelling

- All cases of acute painful or swollen scrotum presenting to a SCHN Emergency Department must be discussed with and reviewed by a surgical registrar
- The surgical registrar must discuss all patients with the appropriate surgical consultant
- If there is likely to be any significant delay in surgical review (>1 hour), the ED Senior (usually the ED Fellow or Consultant but if not present (particularly overnight), the ED registrar) should be informed, and if torsion is a possibility, directly contact the appropriate surgical consultant

Notes for ED

- The below linked document is a Paediatric Improvement Collaborative Guideline

Paediatric Improvement Collaborative Guideline

https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Acute_scrotal_pain_or_swelling/

- Assessment of the acute painful or swollen scrotum can be difficult.
- Symptoms related to acute scrotal presentations include pain, swelling, erythema or discolouration, rash, and also nausea, vomiting and urinary symptoms.
- Examination of the scrotum is essential in every boy with scrotal pain, scrotal swelling and scrotal discolouration, and also in all boys with nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain, or urinary symptoms.
- It is critical to identify which patients have testicular torsion rapidly to ensure timely surgical intervention. Delay can result in testicular necrosis.
- For triage of patients with testicular problems, please refer to triage guidelines.

This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe practice. However, as in any clinical situation, there may be factors which cannot be covered by a single set of guidelines. This document does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgement to each individual presentation.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee	
Date Effective:	1 st July 2021	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	Staff Specialist	Area/Dept: Emergency Department

- Further information - See Chapter 31 “General Surgery – Scrotal Problems” [The Children's Hospital at Westmead Handbook](#).

CHANGE SUMMARY

- Due for mandatory review.
- This Network document replaces CHW Practice Guideline *Scrotal Pain and Swelling - Acute Management in the Emergency Department*.
- Updated to include surgical review of all patients
- Included link to PIC guideline for Scrotal Pain or Swelling.

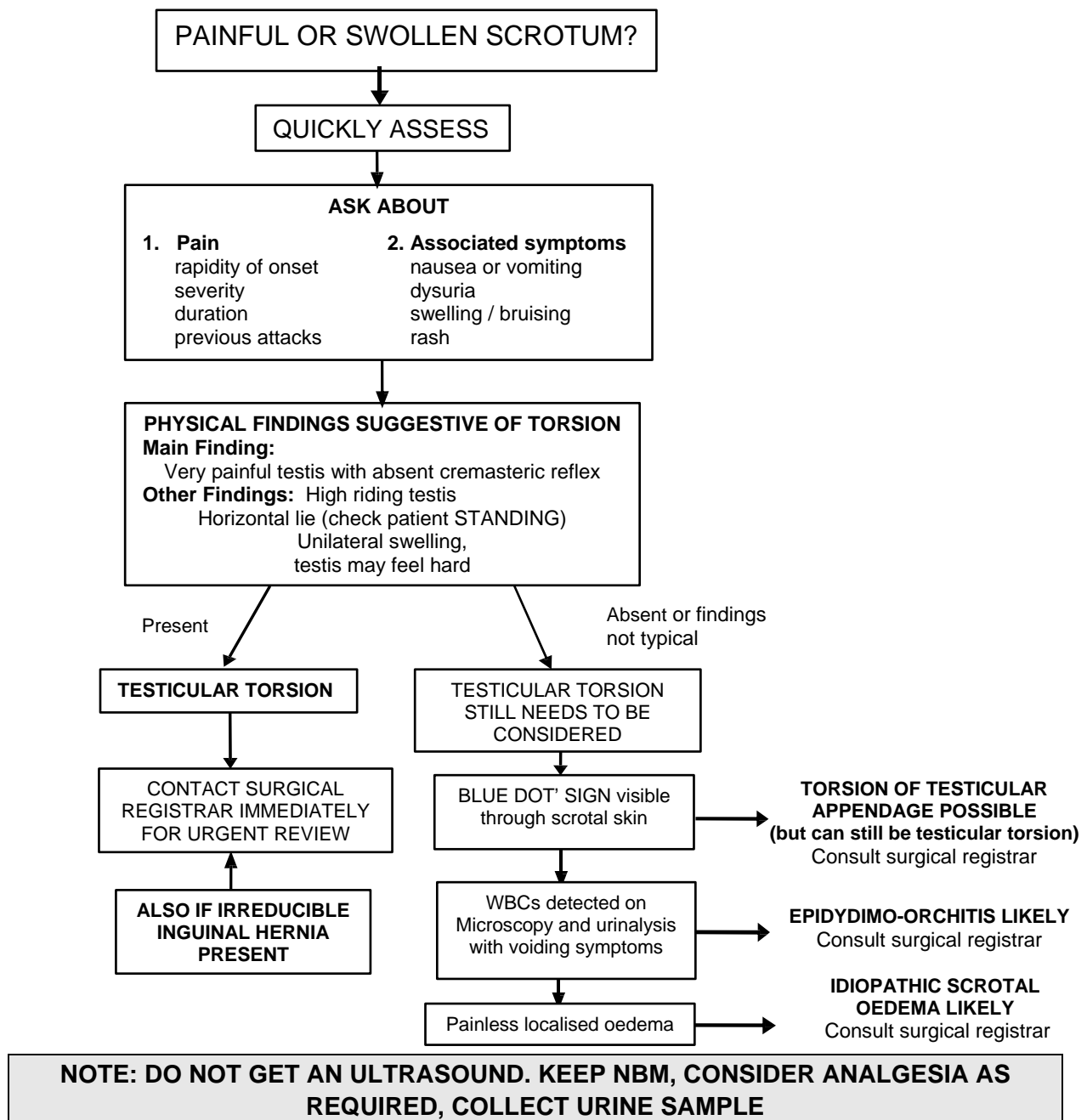
READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All clinical staff working in Emergency Departments should read and acknowledge they understand the contents of this guideline.

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Assessment and Management in ED - Flowchart



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