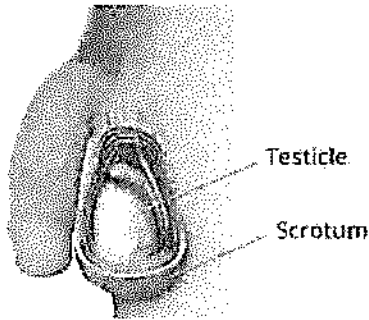


Orchiectomy



An orchiectomy is the removal of one or both testicles. It is most often done to treat cancer of the testicles. Less commonly, it may be done in men with prostate cancer, or to prevent cancer in men whose testicles did not develop normally. An orchiectomy may also be needed when an injury to a testicle cannot be repaired. The testicles can be replaced with artificial testicles (*prostheses*).

Tell a health care provider about:

- Any allergies you have.
- All medicines you are taking, including vitamins, herbs, eye drops, creams, and over-the-counter medicines.
- Any problems you or family members have had with anesthetic medicines.
- Any blood disorders you have.
- Any surgeries you have had.
- Any medical conditions you have.

What are the risks?

Generally, this is a safe procedure. However, problems may occur, including:

- Infection.
- Bleeding inside the sac that holds the testicles (*scrotum*). This is called a scrotal hematoma.
- Damage to nearby structures or organs.
- Discharge from the surgical site.

What happens before the procedure?

Staying hydrated



Follow instructions from your health care provider about hydration, which may include:

- Up to 2 hours before the procedure – you may continue to drink clear liquids, such as water, clear fruit juice, black coffee, and plain tea.

Eating and drinking restrictions

Follow instructions from your health care provider about eating and drinking, which may include:

- 8 hours before the procedure – stop eating heavy meals or foods, such as meat, fried foods, or fatty foods.
- 6 hours before the procedure – stop eating light meals or foods, such as toast or cereal.
- 6 hours before the procedure – stop drinking milk or drinks that contain milk.
- 2 hours before the procedure – stop drinking clear liquids.

Medicines

Ask your health care provider about:

- Changing or stopping your regular medicines. This is especially important if you are taking diabetes medicines or blood thinners.
- Taking medicines such as aspirin and ibuprofen. These medicines can thin your blood. **Do not** take these medicines unless your health care provider tells you to take them.
- Taking over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, herbs, and supplements.

General instructions

- Plan to have someone take you home from the hospital or clinic.
- Ask your health care provider:
 - How your surgery site will be marked.
 - What steps will be taken to help prevent infection. These steps may include:
 - Removing hair at the surgery site.
 - Washing skin with a germ-killing soap.
 - Taking antibiotic medicine.

What happens during the procedure?

- An IV will be inserted into one of your veins.
- You will be given one or more of the following:
 - A medicine to help you relax (*sedative*).
 - A medicine to numb the area (*local anesthetic*).
 - A medicine to make you fall asleep (*general anesthetic*).
- This procedure may involve removal of one or both testicles. The steps for the procedure will depend on the reason for the procedure.
 - If your procedure is for treatment of testicular cancer:
 - An incision will be made in the groin.
 - The testicle and the spermatic cord will be removed through the groin incision.
 - A prosthetic filled with saline may be inserted to fill the space in the scrotum where the testicle was removed.
 - If your procedure is for treatment of prostate cancer:
 - An incision will be made in the scrotum.
 - The testicle will be removed through the incision in the scrotum.
 - A prosthetic filled with saline may be inserted to fill the space in the scrotum where the testicle was removed.
 - After the removal, the incision will be closed with stitches (*sutures*), skin glue, or adhesive strips.

- A sterile bandage (*dressing*) will be applied to the incision site.

The procedure may vary among health care providers and hospitals.

What happens after the procedure?

- Your blood pressure, heart rate, breathing rate, and blood oxygen level will be monitored until you leave the hospital or clinic.
- Once you are awake, stable, and taking fluids well, without other problems, you will be allowed to go home.
- You may have scrotal support. If the scrotal support irritates your incision site, you may remove the support.
- You will have a sterile dressing. You will be instructed when to remove the dressing and when you can shower.
- If you were given a sedative during the procedure, it can affect you for several hours. **Do not** drive or operate machinery until your health care provider says that it is safe.

Summary

- Orchiectomy is a surgical procedure to remove one or both testicles. It is most often done to treat cancer of the testicles.
- Tell your health care provider about any other medical conditions that you have and the medicines that you take to treat those conditions.
- Follow your health care provider's instructions about eating and drinking before the procedure and about changing or stopping any medicines.
- One or both testicles will be removed. A prosthesis filled with saline may be inserted to fill the space in the scrotum where the testicle was removed.
- You will be monitored closely after the procedure. Plan to have someone take you home from the hospital or clinic.

This information is not intended to replace advice given to you by your health care provider. Make sure you discuss any questions you have with your healthcare provider.