



## Hydrocele/Spermatocele Removal

**A hydrocelectomy or spermatocelectomy is a surgical procedure to remove a collection of fluid arising from the testicle or a water balloon forming around the testicle. Alternatives to surgery include observation or other surgical procedures. You will have discussed these alternative options with your urologist prior to deciding to undergo surgery.**

- You signed, or will sign, informed consent paperwork regarding this surgical procedure. This outlines the potential surgical risks and complications associated with this specific surgery. You may request a copy of your informed consent paperwork for your own records, and it is always scanned into your medical record and easily available for review.
- Your surgery will take place at Saint Francis Hospital. The date of your surgery will be determined by you and the surgical scheduler. The date of your surgery will be set in advance but the exact time of your surgery and the time you are expected to show up at the hospital can be variable up to a few days before the procedure. You will be contacted by the Saint Francis Hospital preoperative nursing team to determine exactly when you are expected to be at the hospital.
- You will be required to complete a preoperative physical exam with your primary care physician, cardiologist if you have one, or other physicians or providers. The surgical scheduler will determine which appointments you need prior to surgery. These appointments are typically 3 to 4 weeks before surgery and your provider will determine which medicines to stop or continue in the perioperative period.
- The surgery is under general anesthesia. Surgery time is approximately 60 minutes. You will be asleep for the entirety of the procedure. A single incision is made on the scrotum used to drain the fluid and remove the tissue that created the fluid collection sac. Upon waking up from anesthesia, you will have dissolvable stitches and likely a dressing over the incision. All skin sutures are dissolvable. For very large fluid collections sometimes a surgical drain is left in place to drain any leftover fluid. If a drain is left, it will be removed in the urology office 1-2 days after surgery.
- The majority of patients who undergo the surgery are discharged from the hospital the same day. Some patients may require an overnight stay due to effects from anesthesia.
- You will be discharged home from the hospital with oral pain medicine to help with pain after surgery. A fully updated home medication list will be provided to you by the hospital at discharge.
- You are expected to take Tylenol (Acetaminophen) and Advil (Ibuprofen) for baseline postoperative pain and discomfort. Ice packs are also very effective in reducing pain and swelling after surgery. Swelling,

redness and pain is typical for 1-2 weeks after surgery. It is typical to be passing gas routinely within 2 to 3 days of surgery or sooner, it may take 3 to 5 days to have a bowel movement after surgery. If you have not had a bowel movement 5 days after surgery please utilize MiraLAX or over-the-counter laxatives and if this is not effective call the urology office.

- You will be provided paperwork at the hospital regarding expected postoperative symptoms including warning signs and parameters to call the hospital or the urology office. For example, if you are experiencing chest pain, severe headache, trouble breathing, dizziness or lightheadedness, severe abdominal pain unresponsive to medication, significant bleeding or any other worrisome symptoms please either call the urology office or proceed directly to the emergency room for evaluation.
- You will be seen in the urology office typically 4 weeks after surgery for a wound check and routine postoperative visit, or sooner if a drain is to be removed.
- If you require paperwork or documentation regarding time off of work this paperwork can be completed by the urology office. This paperwork does not need to be completed prior to surgery and is often completed after surgery to reflect an accurate timeline for your recovery. It is your responsibility to provide all necessary paperwork to the office staff.
- After this surgery it is important to continue following up with your urologist to track your postoperative recovery and to monitor for any recurrence of fluid.