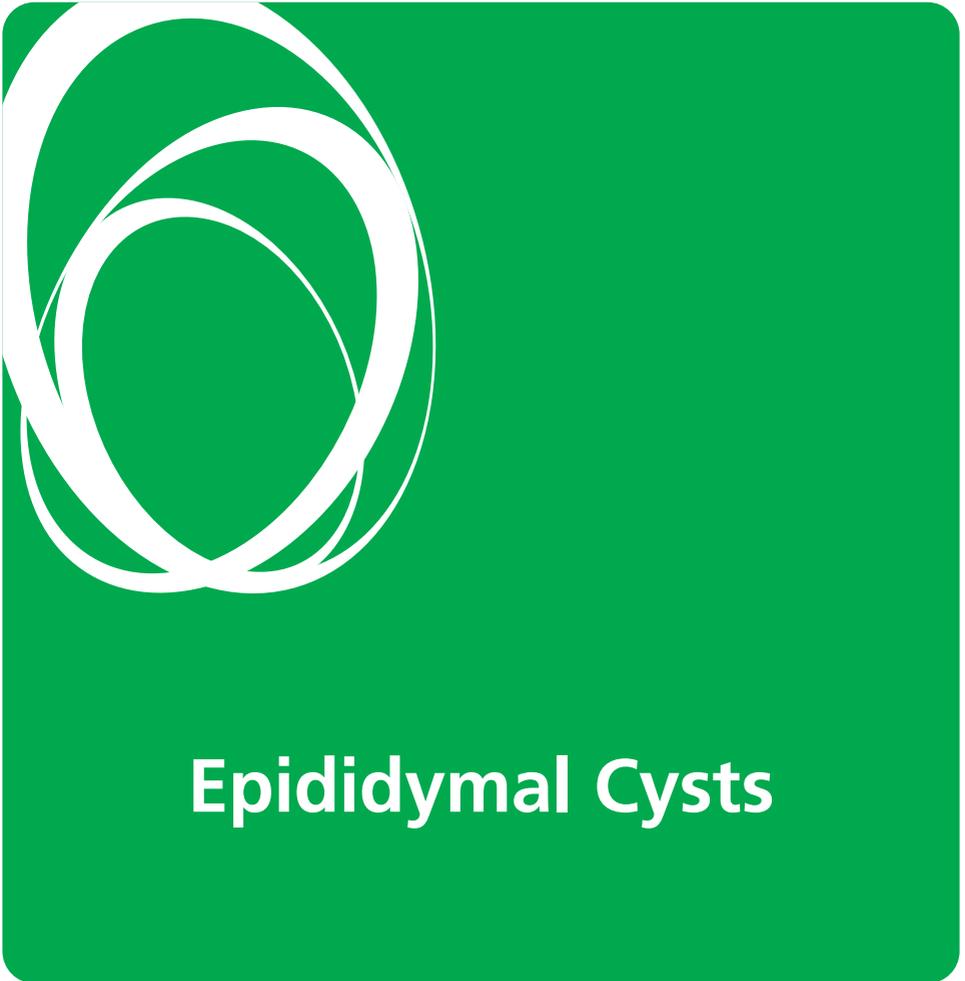




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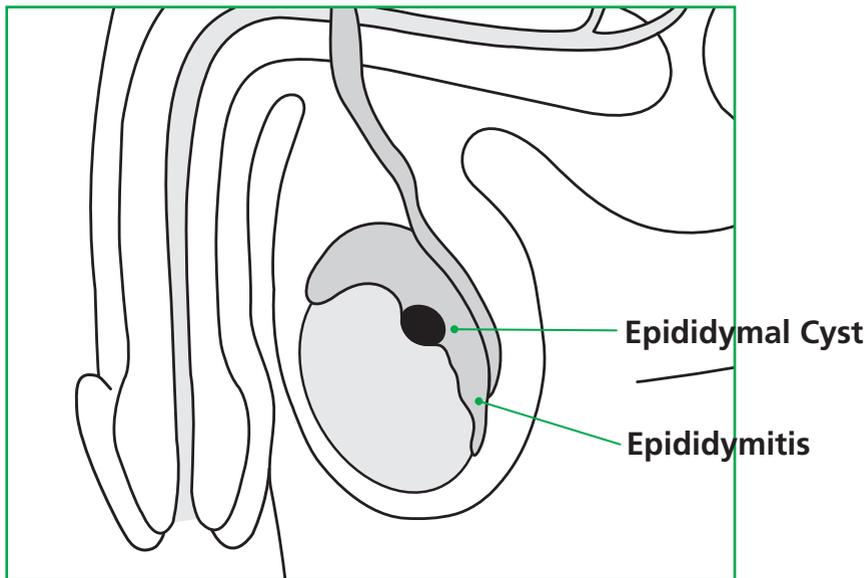
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## What is an epididymal cyst?

An epididymal cyst is a swelling along a tube called the epididymis. The epididymis is a tube that lies on the outside of the top of each testicle. The function of this tube is to transport sperm cells from the testicle.

A patient may have one or even several cysts along the epididymis. Epididymal cysts may be tender but don't usually cause pain.



## How are they diagnosed?

The easiest and most common way to diagnose these is with a physical examination. When attending specialist clinics for testicular swellings, an ultrasound scan can be performed to confirm the diagnosis.

## What is the treatment?

The best treatment is to leave them alone if they are not causing a problem or interfering with any physical activity. If they enlarge and do present to be a problem, they can be removed with an operation under local or general anaesthetic.

Surgery is not recommended unless there is a good reason to do so e.g size of the cyst or pain. This is because any surgery to the testicular area can cause chronic aching which can in some severe cases be worse than the original problem. Another problem after surgery is a risk of scar tissue forming in the area of the tubules causing a blockage to the flow of sperm on that side and this could affect fertility.

## What should you do?

The best thing to do is try and forget about the cyst/cysts. You have been reassured that there is nothing serious. If the cyst does become larger and therefore creates a problem with your daily activity then visit your doctor again and he will re-refer you to the specialist for another opinion.



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