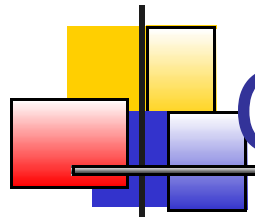




# Retractile Testicle

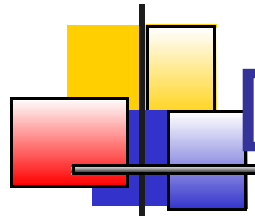
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## Case History

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- n 9 YEAR OLD BOY WITH OCCASIONAL EMPTY LEFT SCROTUM
- n PT DENIES PAIN
- n RIGHT TESTICLE NORMAL



# DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

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- n ULTRASOUND ORDERED TO CONFIRM RETRACTILE LEFT TESTICLE



# RETRACTILE TESTICLE ULTRASOUND

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- n CINI-LOOP CLIP OF  
RETRACTION  
CAUSED BY  
CREMASTER  
MUSCLE FLEXION

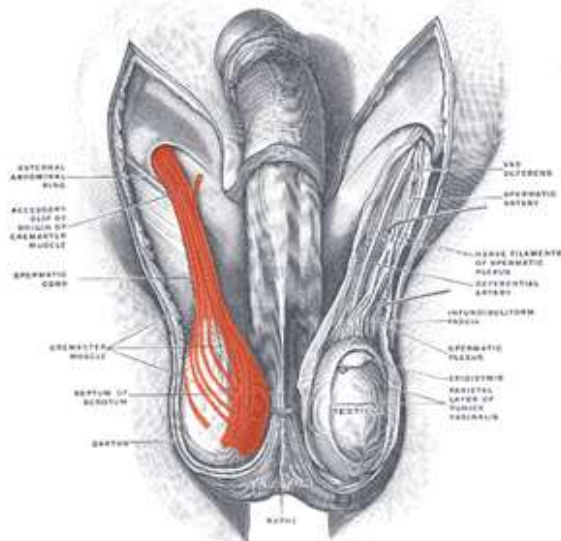


# RETRACTILE TESTICLE DISCUSSION

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- n A retractile testicle is one that has fully descended but that can be lifted up out of the scrotum by the contraction of the cremaster muscle (cremasteric reflex), which attaches to the testicle. When a testicle is in the retracted position, it may rise as far as the superficial inguinal pouch, which is a small pocket under the skin of the groin just below the inguinal canal.
- n Retractable testicles usually do not occur at birth or in infants younger than age 3 months. The cremasteric reflex is strongest between ages 2 and 7 years, and retractile testicles are most common in boys who are about 5 or 6 years old.
- n A retractile testicle can be drawn down completely to the base of the scrotum during an exam and will remain there if the cremaster muscle is relaxed; an undescended testicle cannot. Retractable testicles may be mistaken for a true undescended testicle. It is important that the position of the testicles at birth and in early infancy be recorded during well baby checkups during the first year because this information can help a health professional distinguish between a retractile testicle and a true undescended testicle.
- n Retractable testicles do not require treatment. As boys reach early adolescence, the testicles enlarge and the cremasteric muscle reflex weakens, so the testicles usually descend back into the scrotum on their own. Retractable testicles appear to be otherwise normal and do not have the risks for infertility or testicular cancer that are associated with true undescended testicles.

# CREMASTER MUSCLE



The cremaster muscle is found in the male human body, covering the testis. The muscle moves the testes, promoting healthy and mobile sperm. It also changes the testes' temperature, both lowering and raising the testes to control the temperature. When a man enters an environment with a colder temperature, the muscle causes the testis to move against the body. The more the testis presses against the body, the less is exposed to the colder air. The muscle protects the testis by slowly warming it against the temperature of the body. The Cremaster muscle also works during fight or flight scenarios, when the man must either fight or run. The muscle pulls the testis towards the body, to protect it. The cremasteris reflex refers to the stroking of the inner thigh, moving the hand softly along the area from the hip to the knee. The muscle immediately reacts by raising the testicle. The reflex may occur when a man breathes in deeply, or contracts his abdomen.



# RESOURCES

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[nhttp://www.mayoclinic.com/health/retractile-testicle/DS00742](http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/retractile-testicle/DS00742)

nHealthwise Staff

nJohn Pope, MD - Pediatrics

nPeter Anderson, MD, FRCS(C) - Pediatric Urology

[nhttp://health.msn.com/health-topics/retractile-testicle](http://health.msn.com/health-topics/retractile-testicle)

[nhttp://health.yahoo.net/human-body-maps/cremaster-muscle](http://health.yahoo.net/human-body-maps/cremaster-muscle)

[nionstudy.com](http://iomstudy.com)