Hydrocele Aspiration In Office (with sclerotherapy)

A hydrocele is a benign fluid filled sac surrounding the testicle that results in the swelling of the scrotum and a noticeable bulge when palpating the testicle. It can be found on one testicle or both. The fluid accumulates due to the defective absorption of fluid secreted between two layers of membranes in the testicles. This can be due to inflammation or infection in adults. Oftentimes, hydroceles can come and go, as they are not painful and typically not harmful. It does not decrease testosterone production or fertility. It is commonly seen in newborns, but can occur at any age. If treatment is needed a Hydrocelectomy (surgical removal of a hydrocele) or an in office aspiration can be performed. Aspiration with sclerotherapy and surgical removal of hydroceles is curative most of the time. It is still likely that the hydrocele may return in the future.

What is a hydrocele aspiration?

An in office aspiration of a hydrocele is an elective procedure. It is performed due to the hydrocele causing discomfort, restriction of normal daily activities and other reasons. Sclerotherapy is an agent used to help collapse unnecessary space that allows for a hydrocele to form and may prevent it from recurring.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

-Discontinue any blood thinners, including aspirin, 7 days before the procedure.
-Pick up any medications prescribed.
-Purchase supportive underwear. Bring a pair with you to the procedure.
-Disclose any medications, allergies, medical or surgical history to the provider.
-Shave the scrotum as best you can the day of the procedure.
-You do not need to fast before the procedure.
-You must be free of infection previous to the procedure.

What happens during a hydrocele aspiration?

It is an in-office procedure that takes about 10-15 minutes. You are not under general anesthesia, but an injectable lidocaine will be used to anesthetize the area.
The area may be shaved more if necessary. It will then be cleaned with betadine. Then, a small needle attached to a syringe will be inserted into the hydrocele and fluid will be aspirated into the syringe. This may take multiple attempts to evacuate all the fluid that has accumulated.

After the fluid from the hydrocele has been removed, the needle and syringe will be removed. A sclerotherapy agent will be infused with local anesthesia to allow space to close so that the fluid cannot recollect in the scrotum. A gauze wrap will be placed. Before leaving we ask that you make a follow-up appointment.

The next day, our office will call to make sure you are doing well and answer any questions you may have.

The provider will go over the details of the procedure before it is performed and ensure your consent.

What do I do after the procedure?
-Finish the antibiotic.
-Finish the course of prescribed Motrin.
-Continue wearing supportive underwear for 10 days or until the swelling and discomfort has resolved.
-Keep the area clean and dry.
-Decrease any strenuous activity for 10 days or until the swelling and discomfort has resolved.
-Attend your scheduled follow-up appointment.

What should I expect after the procedure?
-Scrotal discomfort
-Bleeding at the site of needle insertion.
-Swelling: Typically the side treated will swell back to a similar size and then slowly resolve over the next 2 to 3 months.
-Bruising

What are the risks?
-Infection
-Return of hydrocele
-Allergic reaction to the medications used for aspiration, sclerotherapy agents or betadine

What happens next?
Attend your follow-up appointment.

When should I call the office?
-Unresolved or excessive bleeding
-Signs of infection
-Fever over 101

-Unresolved swelling, bruising, discomfort after 1 month

Important Contact Information

Midtown Urology

911 W. 38th Street, Suite 200

(512) 451-7935 phone

(512) 451-7965 fax

If you need to reach the doctor after hours for an urgent matter, please call our office at 512-451-7935 and follow the prompts to be connected with the on-call provider.

You may also go to Seton Main Emergency Room on 38th and N. Lamar. Please only go to this hospital as our physicians have privileges there.

Hospital for Emergencies

Seton Main Medical Center

1201 W 38th St, Austin, TX 78705