Epididymitis: What You Should Know

What is epididymitis?
The epididymis is a tube attached to the back of the testicles that holds the sperm. If you have epididymitis, the epididymis is tender and swollen. Your scrotum may also be red and swollen, usually on one side, and it may hurt to urinate.

What causes it?
In adults, epididymitis is usually caused by bacterial infections. This could be a sexually transmitted infection or caused by bacteria from the gastrointestinal tract.

What should I do if I think I have it?
You should see your doctor right away if you have pain or swelling in your scrotum. Your doctor can test your urine to see if you have an infection.

How is it treated?
Your doctor will decide the best type antibiotic for you depending on your age and other factors. Taking over-the-counter pain medicine or icing your scrotum may help with discomfort.

Where can I get more information?
Your doctor
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/epididymitis.htm
Mayo Clinic
http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/epididymitis/basics/definition/con-20032876
U.S. National Library of Medicine

November 2016