

Testicular Cancer

What is testicular cancer and who gets it?

Testicular cancer is cancer that starts in one or both testicles. These are held inside a skin sack called the scrotum (see drawing).

Testicular cancer is most common in males 15 to 34 years of age. You are more likely to get it if someone in your family has had it or if you had surgery as a child to fix the position of your testicles.

How do I know if I have testicular cancer?

See your doctor if you have pain in one or both of your testicles, feel a lump in your scrotum, or notice that your scrotum is swollen and red.

Your doctor will ask you about your symptoms and check your scrotum and testicles for lumps. If you have a lump, you may need some tests to see if it is cancer.

How is it treated?

You will need surgery to remove the testicle with the cancer. If the cancer has spread to other parts of your body, you may need monthly exams, radiation, chemotherapy, or more surgery.

Treatment usually works well, especially if your cancer is found before it spreads. Even if the cancer spreads, you have a good chance of being cured.

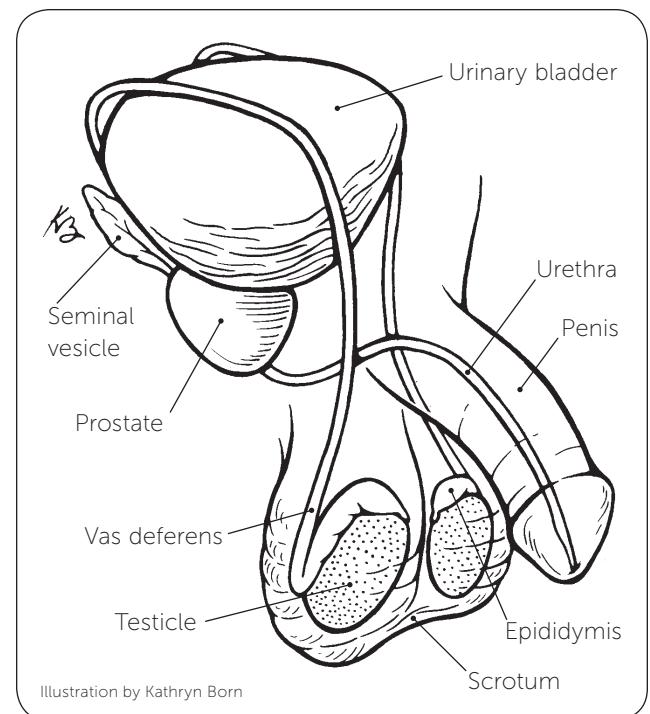


Illustration by Kathryn Born

What should I do after I have been treated?

At first, you may need to see your doctor every one to two months for an exam. Later, you will not need exams as often.

You should see your doctor if you find lumps, hardness, swelling, or other changes to your testicles.

continues



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

This handout is provided to you by your family doctor and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Other health-related information is available from the AAFP online at <http://familydoctor.org>.

This information provides a general overview and may not apply to everyone. Talk to your family doctor to find out if this information applies to you and to get more information on this subject. Copyright © 2018 American Academy of Family Physicians. Individuals may photocopy this material for their own personal reference, and physicians may photocopy for use with their own patients. Written permission is required for all other uses, including electronic uses.

INFORMATION

from Your Family Doctor

Testicular Cancer *(continued)*

Where can I find more information?

AAFP's Patient Information Resource

<http://familydoctor.org/condition/testicular-cancer/>

American Cancer Society

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/testicular-cancer.html>

National Cancer Institute

<https://www.cancer.gov/types/testicular>

This handout was adapted with permission from Shaw J. Testicular cancer: what you should know [patient handout]. *Am Fam Physician*. 2008;77(4):469-474. <http://www.aafp.org/afp/2008/0215/p475.html>. Accessed September 15, 2017.

February 2018