



# Undescended Testicles: Management Recommendations

## When should you refer?

### **Bilateral non palpable testicles:**

Urologists should be consulted immediately for patients born with bilateral non palpable testicles as this could be a medical emergency (congenital adrenal hyperplasia or CAH).

### **Palpable undescended testicles and unilateral non palpable testicles:**

Patients with persistently undescended testicles at **6 months of age** should be referred to urology.

### **Previously descended testicles:**

If a previously descended testicle is not palpated within the scrotum refer patient to urology as they may have an acquired undescended testicle/ascending testicle.

## When should you get an ultrasound?

### **Ultrasound is not recommended in the evaluation of undescended testicles.**

- Ultrasound accuracy is low in determining testicular location and in identifying intraabdominal testicles.

## When should you perform testicular exams?

### **Testicular exams should be performed at each well-child visit even if they were previously descended.**

- As children grow, testicular position can change, so yearly exams to confirm testicular quality and position are recommended.

## Why does timing matter?

- Testicles that are undescended by 6 months of age are unlikely to descend spontaneously.
- Undescended testicles are associated with Increased risk of Infertility and testicular cancer
- Cancer and Infertility risk Increases the longer testicles are undescended

## Additional Resources

**AUA Guidelines:** <https://www.auanet.org/guidelines-and-quality/guidelines/cryptorchidism-guideline>

**Choosing Wisely:** <https://www.choosingwisely.org/clinician-lists/american-urological-association-ultrasounds-on-boys-with-cryptorchidism/>

**Caregiver handout:** <https://www.seattlechildrens.org/globalassets/documents/for-patients-and-families/pfe/pe984.pdf>