**Child with an Empty Scrotum (Undescended Testis)**

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1. **How common is empty scrotum in a male child?**  
Almost 1 in every 100 male children born will have an empty scrotum. It may be on one side or both sides of the scrotum.

2. **What is the significance of empty scrotum?**  
When a male child grows in the mother's womb, the testis develops in the abdomen and reaches the scrotum just before birth (9th month) after traversing the normal pathway. Scrotal temperature is 3F less than intra-abdominal temperature and at this setting only it can grow and mature normally.

3. **What if the testis remains inside the abdomen or along the normal pathway of migration instead of reaching the scrotum?**  
Its growth and maturity is retarded and its capacity to produce hormones and sperms may be reduced or permanently lost.

4. **What tests are needed to diagnose such a condition?**  
An expert clinician has to examine the child first and then he may ask for an ultrasound of the abdomen and the groin if needed.

5. **What are the complications of such a condition if left untreated?**  
Most important among many are-  
- Infertility  
- Torsion and loss of organ.  
- Development of cancer in the testis.  
- Psychological disorders.

6. **Can medication cure such a condition?**  
Surgery is the only remedy except in rare situations, who may need administration of hormones.
7. What is the ideal age for operation?
   **ONE YEAR OF AGE**

8. What happens if operation is postponed beyond one year of age?
   Testis is going to get damaged due to higher temperature and its function is going to get permanently lost (production of hormones and sperms)

9. Any resent advances in the field of treatment of this condition?
   Laparoscopy is the best modality (for diagnosis as well as treatment) for those children in whom testis is neither palpable nor localized by available scans.

**Message to the Parents**
Every male child born must be examined by a competent Pediatrician to exclude a possibility of Undescended Testis and when needed to be operated by a dexterous Surgeon AT ONE YEAR OF AGE.

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