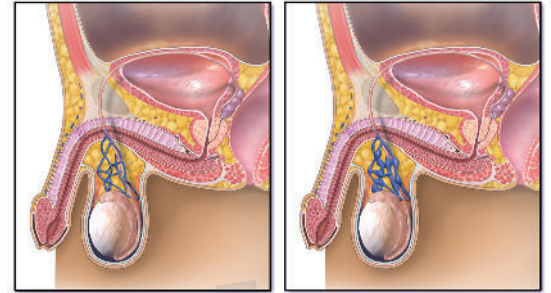


VARICOCELE PATHOCHART

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

A varicocele is an abnormal cluster of dilated veins behind and above the testis in the scrotum. This may result from increased fluid congestion in the veins due to damaged valves in the testicular veins. If left untreated, can be a cause of infertility.



Normal

Varicocele

By BruceBlaus - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=44969448>

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Most often unilateral
- Usually on left side
- Scrotum feels 'worm-like'
- Usually asymptomatic

DIAGNOSTICS

- Palpation of scrotum
 - Use valsalva maneuver
- Thermography
 - Detects pockets of heat
- Ultrasound
 - Shows excess blood flow

NURSING PRIORITIES

- Promote tissue integrity
- Consider reproduction support
- Promote comfort and perfusion post-op

THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- If asymptomatic, no treatment required
- If painful, surgical removal is indicated
 - Varicocelectomy

MEDICATION THERAPY

- Analgesics as needed
- Antibiotics if infection/abscess develops