

Care at home

Remove the bandage from the needle site the day after the procedure. You can then shower.

If needed, take plain acetaminophen (Tylenol) for pain.

If your groin was used

For the next week:

- Do not lift heavy objects.
- Do not do any strenuous activities, heavy yard work, or exercise.

When to get help

Go to the nearest Emergency Department if you have:

- Sudden shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Severe scrotal swelling or change in colour
- Testicle or lower abdomen pain that does not go away with pain medicine

Call your doctor if you have:

- Fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches and chills

Locations

Abbotsford-Regional Hospital 604-851-4866
Medical Imaging 2nd Floor, Fraser Wing
32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford

Lions Gate Hospital 604-984-5775
Medical Imaging, Lower Level
231 East 15th Street, North Vancouver

Royal Columbian Hospital 604-520-4640
Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower
330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster

St. Paul's Hospital 604-806-8006
Medical Imaging, 2nd Floor, Providence Building
1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver

Surrey Memorial Hospital 604-588-3305
Medical Imaging, 1st Floor, Lower Level
13750 96th Avenue, Surrey

UBC Hospital 604-822-7076
Medical Imaging, Main Floor
2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver

HealthLinkBC 8-1-1

Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours.

Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

www.fraserhealth.ca – www.vch.ca

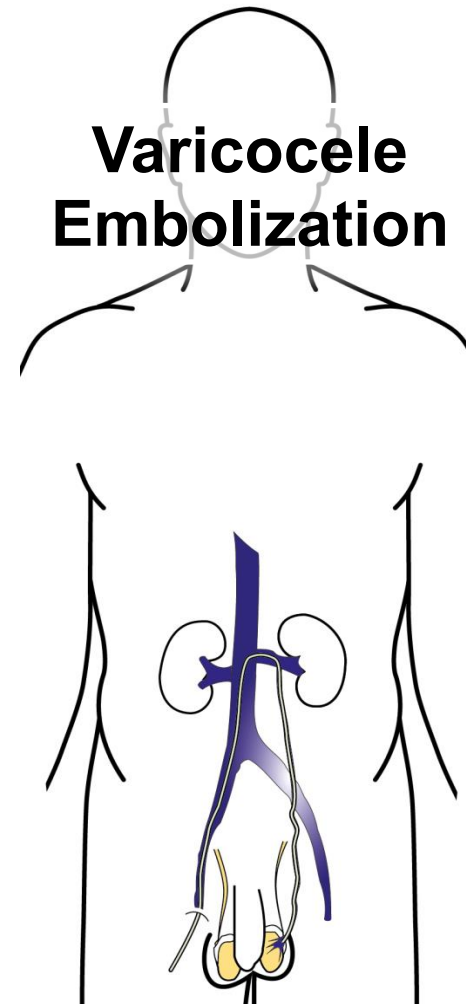
This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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Varicocele Embolization



Follow-up Instructions/Appointment:

- Make an appointment with your urologist.

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What is Varicocele Embolization?

A varicocele is when the vein in the scrotum that drains blood from a testicle becomes enlarged. This is similar to varicose veins in the leg. A varicocele can cause pain, swelling, and affect your fertility.

This procedure closes off the enlarged vein without surgery (called 'embolization'). When the vein is blocked, your body naturally finds other veins to drain blood from the testicle.

Who does the Varicocele Embolization?

It is done by an interventional radiologist (a doctor who specializes in using x-ray, ultrasound, CT scan, and medical resonance imaging to guide diagnosis and treatment).

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, they can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for reasons of safety and regulations, they cannot be in the room during the procedure. We will tell you where family members can wait.

What happens before the procedure?

Our Medical Imaging Department contacts you with specific instructions on how to prepare for the biopsy.

How long will it take?

Recovery time is different for everyone. You could be in the hospital between 2 to 4 hours.

You must arrange for a 'responsible adult' to drive you home when leaving the hospital.

Alert

Let us know if:

- You have any allergies.
- You have reacted to x-ray dye in the past.

What happens during the procedure?

- We start an intravenous in your arm so we can give pain and other medicines during the procedure.
- We might give you a suppository that is a long-acting anti-inflammatory medicine.
- We use a large vein in either your neck or groin for the procedure. If using the groin, we might need to shave both groin areas.
- We clean the area then cover it with sterile drapes.
- The radiologist injects numbing medicine to 'freeze' the area.
- The radiologist uses a needle and x-ray to guide a tiny, flexible tube (or catheter) through a large vein into the varicocele vein.
- Small amounts of x-ray dye are injected through the catheter to see the blood flow.
- The varicocele vein is injected either with tiny metal coils or small particles (embolic agent). The metal coils are like small springs. Both the coils and the particles trigger your blood to clot around them, blocking the flow of blood to the vein.
- Once complete, the catheter is removed. The radiologist puts pressure over the area for several minutes to stop any bleeding.

Does it hurt?

It might sting or burn as the numbing medicine is injected. Some men have found it uncomfortable as the vein is being treated. Tell us if you are having pain so we can give you pain medicine.

It is common for there to be some swelling of the varicocele vein after being treated. Your testicles and lower abdomen might feel tender for a few days.

What happens afterwards?

We move you to our recovery area. A nurse checks you and the needle site to make sure there is no bleeding. Most men stay in bed for at least 1 hour.

Are there any risks or complications?

This procedure is very safe but there are risks. Any time the skin is pierced or cut there is a chance of infection.

Other possible complications include:

- bruising and bleeding at the site
- allergic reaction to the x-ray dye
- damage to other tissues if the treatment goes to the wrong place (called mis-embolization)
- return of the varicocele months, even years, later

You can ask questions about the risks before you sign the consent form.