



Testicular cancer

Cancer of the testicles, also known as testicular cancer, is an uncommon type of cancer that primarily affects younger men.

The most common symptom of testicular cancer is a painless lump or swelling in the testicles. Other symptoms can include:

- a dull ache in the scrotum
- a feeling of heaviness in the scrotum

Symptoms

The most common symptom of testicular cancer is a lump or swelling in one of your testicles.

Testicular lumps are most commonly found on the front or the side of the testicle. They often feel like a hard, pea-sized swelling.

When to see your GP

Never ignore a lump or a swelling in your testicle. It is very important to visit your GP as soon as you notice any lump or swelling on your testicle.

Your GP will examine your testicles to help determine whether or not the lump is cancerous. Most testicular lumps are not a sign of cancer. For example, varicoceles (swollen blood vessels) are a common cause of testicular lumps.

Research has shown that less than 4% of testicular lumps are cancerous. In the unlikely event that you do have testicular cancer, the sooner treatment begins, the greater the likelihood that you will be completely cured.

If you do not feel comfortable visiting your GP, you can go to your local sexual health clinic, where a healthcare professional will be able to examine you.

Associated symptoms

As well as a lump or swelling, testicular cancer can also cause other symptoms including:

- a dull ache or sharp pain in your testicles or scrotum, which may come and go
- a feeling of heaviness in your scrotum
- a dull ache in your lower abdomen (stomach area)
- a sudden collection of fluid in your scrotum (hydrocele)
- fatigue
- a general feeling of being unwell