

Filarial hydroceles and chyloceles

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Filarial hydroceles and chyloceles account for up to 80% of hydroceles in tropical countries, where the parasite *Wuchereria bancrofti* is endemic. Filarial hydroceles follow repeated attacks of filarial epididymo-orchitis. Occasionally, the fluid contains liquid fat, which is rich in cholesterol. This is caused by rupture of a lymphatic varix with discharge of chyle into the hydrocele. In longstanding chyloceles, there are dense adhesions between the scrotum and its contents. Filarial elephantiasis supervenes in a small number of cases. Treatment is by rest and aspiration with chronic cases treated by excision of the sac. Otto Eduard Heinrich Wucherer, 1820–1873, German physician who practised in Brazil. Joseph Bancroft, 1836–1894, English physician working in Australia. -

- Figure 86.11 Ultrasound image of an epididymal cyst (courtesy of Dr /uni00A0 Davide Prezzi).

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