

Torsion of the appendix testis and appendix epididymis

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The appendix testis (hydatid of Morgagni) is a remnant of the Müllerian (paramesonephric) duct, whereas the appendix epididymis is a Wolffian (mesonephric) remnant. Both are Giovanni Battista Morgagni, 1682–1771, Italian anatomist, considered the father of modern anatomical pathology. Johannes Peter Müller, 1801–1858, German physiologist, comparative anatomist, ichthyologist and herpetologist. Caspar Friedrich Wolff, 1733–1794, German physiologist and one of the founders of embryology. - small and pedunculated and are located on the upper testis or epididymis; they can twist and infarct (Figure 17.7). Appendage torsion occurs most commonly between 7 and 14 years. Mild to severe acute scrotal pain is present, usually without vomiting. On examination, a small area just above the testis may be tender; occasionally, a dark mass is visible, known as the blue-dot sign. A Doppler ultrasound can help exclude testicular torsion. Analgesia, and rest, may be sufficient, with exploration reserved for severe pain and equivocal cases. -

Figure 17.5 The red and blue colour on one testis shows normal blood flow whereas the contralateral testis has no blood supply, consistent with a torsion. Figure 17.6 Torsion of the right testis with only modest vascular compromise in a boy with a history of intermittent pain.

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