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MESOTHELIOMA OF THE TESTICLE

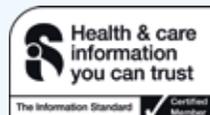
Author: Liz Darlison

Reviewed By: Lorraine Creech, MUK CNS Team Leader

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MESOTHELIOMA UK

Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer

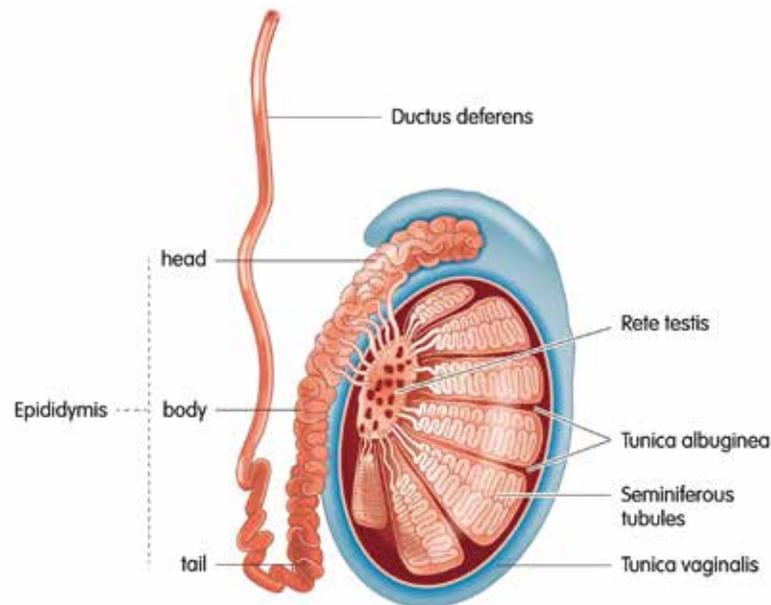


MESOTHELIOMA UK

Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer

Mesothelioma is a type of cancer that develops in some of the linings of the body. Mesothelioma of the testicle develops in the lining that surrounds the testicles. This lining is similar to the linings that surround the lungs and abdomen. Mesothelioma of the testicle occurs when the disease

is found in the tunica vaginalis which is a thin membrane that surrounds, protects and insulates the testicles. The tunica vaginalis is similar to the lining of the chest and abdominal cavity in that it is made up of mesothelial cells and it has two layers, a visceral (inner) layer and a parietal (outer) layer.



Incidence, causes and presentation

Mesothelioma of the tunica vaginalis is a very rare cancer. It accounts for only 1% of mesothelioma cases and only about 20 are diagnosed each year in the UK. The first case of mesothelioma involving the tunica vaginalis was reported in a medical journal in 1957 and to date there have been less than 100 cases reported. Most people who develop the disease are in their 50s or older and only a few are younger than 25 years.

Usually, mesothelioma is caused by asbestos. However, in recently reported cases of mesothelioma of the testicle approximately only half of the people remember being exposed to asbestos. Therefore it is not clear if there is another reason for its development. There are two possible theories.

- 1) The mesothelioma starts in the peritoneal membrane and descends down to one or both of the testicles.
- 2) The mesothelioma starts in the tunica vaginalis in one of the testicles.

Unlike mesothelioma found in other parts of the body there are few symptoms associated with mesothelioma of the testicle. The appearance of a lump in the scrotum is the most common presentation and this is usually caused by a hydrocele (when fluid builds up in the tunica vaginalis).

Treatment options

As the disease is so rare, there is limited understanding of what the best treatment is for mesothelioma of the testicle. The most common treatment option involves an operation to remove the affected testicle. Other treatment options include chemotherapy or radiotherapy.