

CHAPTER 4

ACUTE SCROTUM

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Acute scrotum is one of the most common urological emergencies in children and adolescents. Patients often present with a sudden onset of pain accompanied by swelling and redness. Although the causes of most acute scrotums are nonemergent, delayed diagnosis and treatment may result in rapid loss of the testis in some presentations. Therefore, it is essential to distinguish between cases requiring emergency surgery and nonemergent cases. However, it is a clinical condition that can present a diagnostic dilemma for even the experienced physicians. Causes of acute scrotum include testicular torsion, torsion of the testicular appendages, epididymitis, epididymo-orchitis, scrotal trauma, hernia/hydrocele, varicocele, and Henoch-Schonlein purpura. Undoubtedly, the most serious cause of acute scrotum is testicular torsion (1-3).

Testicular torsion is the twisting of the spermatic cord due to the rotation of the testis around its axis, resulting in compromised testicular perfusion. The annual incidence under the age of 18 is 3.8 per 100.000, and it is most common in the neonatal and adolescence period. In the neonatal period, the fixation of the tissues is weak due to the descent of the testis into the scrotum. Although the etiology is not exactly elucidated, this may induce rotation of the spermatic

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