CHAPTER 16

EPIDIDYMAL ANOMALIES AND CYSTS

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Anomalies affecting the epididymis and the vas deferens are usually caused by testicular and genital developmental defects, syndromes, and testicular descent anomalies (1).Epididymis is a transport organ between testicle and vas deferens and also it takes role in sperm storage, maturation and concentration (2). The ratio of male children with undescended testicles having epididymal anomaly ranges between 35-75 % (3-5). Epididymal anomalies are most commonly related to number (agenesis or duplication), size (hypoplasia or hyperplasia), location (ectopia), and attachment to the testis. Complete absence of the epididymis is a common anomaly in anorchidism and monorchidism, but occurs in only 0.69% of undescended testicles (6). Epididymal duplication is a rare anomaly seen in infertile patients. It is in the form of a small accessory epididymis originating from the epididymis in the corpus-cauda transition area (7). Hypoplasia of the epididymis may involve one or both sides, and is a lesion often found in cases of anorchidism, hypogonadotropic hypogonadism, and cryptorchidism.The most frequently affected epididymal segment is the caputs (8). Epidymal hyperplasia can be congenital or acquired. Bulky epididymis has been reported in anencephalic neonates despite the small size of their testicles. Since most of their growth is under androgenic control, both the corpus and caput appear to be enlarged, although they are expected to be hypoplastic (9).

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