

MSK Direct

Testicular Cancer Awareness



The most common signs of testicular cancer are pain, swelling, or a lump or hardness in the testicle. If you find a lump in a testicle, please see your healthcare provider right away.

Testicles (testes) are located below your penis. They are 2 small, egg-shaped glands that make and store sperm. The loose skin around them is called the scrotum.

Risk factors for testicular cancer

Testicular cancer is not linked to any habits, activities, or lifestyles.

But there are 2 important risk factors that can raise your chance of getting the disease.

- An undescended testicle. Testicles descend (drop down) from the abdomen to the scrotum before you're born. If you were born with a testicle that did not descend, you have a greater risk of testicular cancer. That's true even if you had surgery to fix the problem.
- You already had testicular cancer. If you had cancer in 1 of your testicles, you're more likely to get cancer in the other one. However, the lifetime risk of this happening is low (1% to 2%). Out of every 100 people who had testicular cancer, only 1 or 2 will get it again.

Signs and symptoms

The most common signs of testicular cancer are pain, swelling, or a lump or hardness in the testicle. If you find a lump in a testicle, please see your healthcare provider right away.

Less common symptoms include:

- Pain in your lower abdomen (belly) or groin
- Tenderness in the breast area
- A painless lump in the testicle
- Heaviness in the scrotum
- Back pain

These symptoms do not always mean you have cancer. See your healthcare provider if you have any of them. It's very important to find the cancer early, so it's easier to treat.

Connect with us.

The MSK Direct team is available to help you and your family make smart decisions about the best cancer care options. Learn more by visiting msk.org/mskdirectforyou or call the dedicated MSK Direct phone number: **646-449-1515**.



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center