

Evaluating the treatment delays contributing to testicular torsion outcomes in pediatric patients

- **Background:** Testicular torsion is a urological emergency: prompt intervention is required to restore blood flow and testicular salvage rate decreases with time. Therefore, delays in care may increase the likelihood of orchiectomy, an outcome associated with reduced fertility and psychological trauma. Consequently, processes that affect time to treatment may influence patients' long-term quality of life. Intrahospital transfers and ultrasound exams, while clinically essential to proper treatment, may adversely affect testicular torsion outcomes by delaying surgical intervention. Specifically, repeat ultrasounds for transfer patients —i.e., ultrasound exams performed at both the initial admitting institution and receiving institution— commonly occur and may do more harm than good.
- **Purpose:** This study was to assess how intrahospital transfers and repeated ultrasound exams, which delay treatment, affect testicular torsion outcomes.