

Painful and Swollen Penis

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A 12-year-old boy presents with a painful and swollen penis that is of an acute onset.

What is your diagnosis?

- Paraphimosis
- Amniotic band syndrome
- Angioneurotic edema
- Balanoposthitis

Answer

Paraphimosis (**answer a**) develops when a phimotic foreskin is retracted behind the head of the penis and becomes trapped. When paraphimosis is seen in children, it is often because the foreskin has been forcefully retracted or the foreskin is not reduced after voiding or bathing. The constricting band proximal to the swelling is pathognomonic. The constricting ring impairs the lymphatic and blood flow to and from the glans and foreskin. Lymphatic and venous stasis develops, with resultant pain and swelling of the foreskin.

Paraphimosis is a pediatric urologic emergency. If paraphimosis is not treated early, penile ischemia and gangrene may develop. Manual reduction of the foreskin with appropriate lubrication is usually successful. If the foreskin cannot be reduced forward, a dorsal preputial slit may be required.

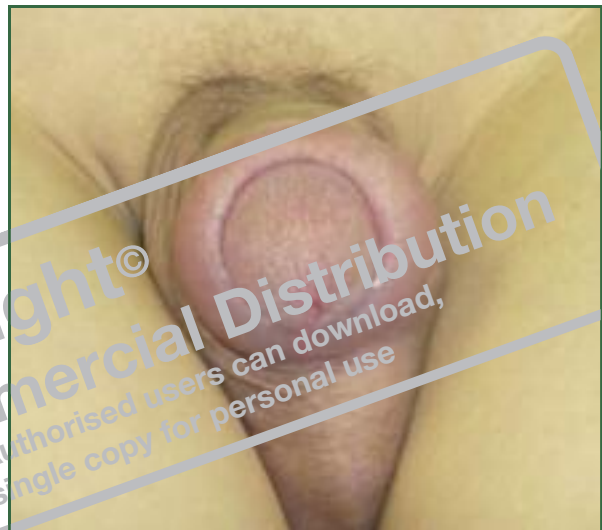


Figure 1: Painful and Swollen Penis

Uncircumcised males are at higher risk of developing paraphimosis than circumcised males. Children with phimosis may require treatment with a topical hydrocortisone cream. Circumcision should be considered if topical treatment with hydrocortisone cream is not successful.

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