

Testicular Microlithiasis

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A 27-year-old male presented to the clinic complaining of bilateral testicular pressure. He denied fever, urethral discharge, dysuria, or trauma. On examination there was no groin swelling or deformity of the external genitalia. Two testicles were palpated; they were approximately the same size and shape, had a similar vertical lie, and were at the same level. Both testicles were smooth, firm, and mildly tender on palpation; there was no urethral discharge. Testicular ultrasound revealed diffuse bilateral microcalcifications (Figure). The patient has undergone yearly ultrasound imaging for 5 years, and there has been no progression.

Testicular microlithiasis is a condition in which calcium deposits form in the lumina of seminiferous tubules or arise from the tubular basement membrane components.¹ It is unclear whether there is a common etiology or a cause and effect relationship between testicular microlithiasis and testicular cancer; however, an overwhelming body of evidence shows that it indicates premalignant changes in men with

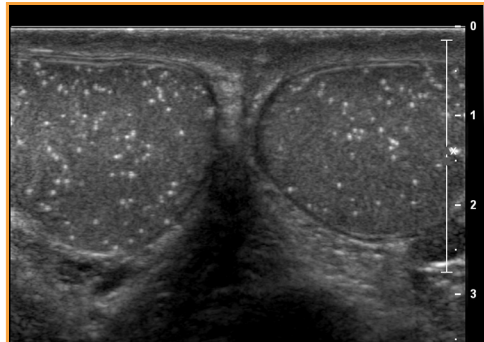


FIGURE. Ultrasound of the testicles demonstrating bilateral microcalcifications.

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risk factors for germ cell cancer, such as previous testicular cancer, history of maldescent of the testis, or the presence of testicular atrophy.²

1. Kim B, Winter TC, Ryu JA. Testicular microlithiasis: Clinical significance and review of the literature. *Eur Radiol.* 2003;13(12):2567-2576.
2. van Casteren NJ, Loojenga LH, Dohle GR. Testicular microlithiasis and carcinoma-in-situ overview and proposed clinical guideline. *Int J Androl.* 2009;32(4):279-287.