

*Read All About It:*  
**VARICOCELE**

A varicocele is the **swelling of the veins inside the scrotum**. A varicocele is similar to a varicose vein you might see in your leg except they happen around the testicles.

A varicocele forms when valves inside the veins that run along the spermatic cord stop blood from flowing the right way. Blood backs up, which leads to swelling and enlargement of the veins. Varicoceles are more common on the left side of the scrotum.

About  
**3 MILLION CASES**  
of varicocele occur in the United States  
each year, affecting about  
**15% OF ALL MALES**

It's important for men to know about varicocele because it's one of the most common reasons for male infertility.

In fact, about  
**20% OF MALES**  
with varicocele are at  
risk of infertility.

Most varicoceles do not need to be treated with surgery. Men with varicoceles still have about an **80% chance of being able to have children.**



Most men with a varicocele do not have symptoms. When symptoms do occur, the most common ones include feeling a lump in the scrotum or feeling a broad heaviness or throbbing pain in the scrotum when standing for a long period of time. But most men do not know they have the health issue. A varicocele has been described as looking like a "bag of worms."

Most  
varicoceles  
develop  
over time.



Fortunately,  
most don't  
need  
treatment.