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JOURNAL ARTICLE

Acute experimental testicular torsion. No effect on the contralateral testis

T. T. Turner

Other investigators have shown that chronic unilateral testicular torsion produces negative effects on the contralateral testis in experimental animals. In the present study, bilateral testicular weight and histology, and concentrations and motility of spermatozoa from the cauda epididymidis were studied after 0 to 4 hours of acute unilateral testicular torsion in the rat. The obstruction of blood flow by torsion was documented, as well as the presence or absence of return blood flow after the relief of torsion. The above mentioned parameters of testicular function were studied at 7, 30, and 60 days after relief of torsion. Ipsilateral testis weights and epididymal sperm concentrations and motility were significantly reduced by 1, 2, and 4 hours of torsion. The histology of torsioned testes was also severely altered, and no seminiferous epithelial repair was evident 60 days after torsion. Contralateral testicles were not affected by ipsilateral torsion of 1, 2, or 4 hours duration, despite the fact that the ipsilateral testis function was completely compromised by 2 and 4 hours of torsion. These results indicate that there would be no clinical benefit in removing the acutely torsioned testis of Sprague-Dawley rats since it poses no threat to the contralateral testis.

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