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## JOURNAL ARTICLE

# Effects of experimental cryptorchidism and subsequent orchidopexy on seminiferous tubule functions in the lamb

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The reversibility of damage caused by cryptorchidism to the seminiferous tubules of the lamb was investigated at various ages. Lambs were made bilaterally cryptorchid either at birth or at 2 months of age. Then orchidopexy was performed at either 2 or 4 months of age. In permanently cryptorchid lambs, spermatogenesis stopped completely, and Sertoli cell function, as measured by FSH receptors, androgen receptors and ABP, was much reduced (-96%, -86% and -81%, respectively). Orchidopexy allowed the cryptorchid seminiferous epithelium to grow again, but the more differentiated the germ cells, the less they were capable of restoration. Even in 0- to 2- and 0- to 4-month-old temporarily cryptorchid lambs that had recovered normal Sertoli cell function, 16 to 49% of the tubules still were empty. It was concluded that cryptorchidism irreversibly damages the seminiferous tubules at a level other than the hormone receptors.

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