

Centre for Interventional Radiology and Oncology (CIRO)

The new Centre for Interventional Radiology and Oncology (CIRO) at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton's Charlton Campus provides minimally invasive treatments or procedures that offer less risk, less pain and less recovery time compared to open surgery.

CIRO at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton delivers high quality, innovative, patient focused clinical services supported by an active research environment.

What is Varicocele Embolization?

A varicocele is a network of dilated veins in the scrotum. Embolization is a way of internally blocking these abnormal veins with small spring like coils, redirecting the blood flow to healthy pathways.

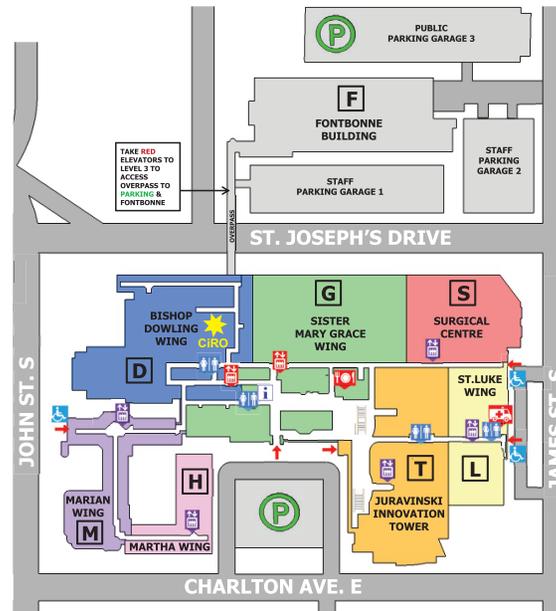
Questions?

We encourage you to ask questions to your health care team at any time. Please find our contact information below to connect with us.

Contact

CiRO 905-522-1155 Extension: 35387

Maps and directions



The Centre for Interventional Radiology and Oncology is located at:
St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton's
Charlton Campus
Bishop Dowling, Level 1, D154
50 Charlton Avenue East
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 4A6



www.stjoes.ca

Centre for Interventional Radiology and Oncology (CIRO)

Department of

Diagnostic Imaging

Varicocele Embolization



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How This Procedure Helps

Varicoceles can be very painful and may lead to infertility. A clinical examination can confirm the presence of a varicocele and an ultrasound examination can allow for further evaluation of the findings. Varicocele embolization is a minimally invasive procedure that is as effective as surgery with less pain and less recovery time.

Your Care Team

The varicocele embolization will be done in the CiRO department by a specially trained doctor called an Interventional Radiologist. Our team consists of Doctors, Nurses and Medical Radiation Technologists.

How To Prepare For Varicocele Embolization

Do not have anything to eat or drink 6 hours before your test

- Please take all of your medication except blood thinners, with a small sip of water, especially heart and blood pressure pills
- Please let your doctor know if you've had a previous allergic reaction to x-ray dye
- Your doctor may order a medication for you to take prior to the procedure
- If you're a diabetic follow your normal routine
- When you arrive please check in at registration

When You Arrive

- You will be brought to the waiting room where a nurse will meet with you and get you ready for the procedure
- An intravenous will be placed into your arm
- You will be asked about your medication history and list of current medications
- You will be required to change into a hospital gown for this procedure
- Your interventional radiologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions
- If you agree to the test, you will be asked to sign a consent form

What Will Happen During The Procedure?

The Interventional Radiologist will inject a local anesthetic to numb the skin. Medications for sedation and pain may be given intravenously throughout the procedure. A tiny nick is made in the skin usually in the neck or sometimes in the groin and a small flexible tube called a catheter is passed into the vein.

X-ray guidance is used to direct this catheter into the testicular vein. X-ray dye or contrast is injected to visualize the network and the dilated channels will be blocked internally (embolisation).

After Your Procedure

After your procedure you will be taken back to the CiRO recovery area where you will rest quietly in bed for 1-4 hours.

A nurse will monitor your vitals. Once this period is over you will be discharged home. You must have a responsible adult accompany you home; you will not be permitted to drive after the procedure.

After Care Instructions

Common side effects

- You may notice some minor bleeding at skin puncture site
- Low-grade backache is possible
- You may feel nauseous

Avoid heavy lifting or exercise for 48 hours.

What Are The Risks And Complications Of Varicocele Embolization?

Varicocele embolization is a safe procedure and complications are unusual and usually minor. Bleeding, infection and damage to the blood vessel are the possible complications. Nausea and a low grade backache are possible after the procedure. Every effort is taken to prevent these from happening.