

# Intrascrotal Masses: Differentiation, Diagnosis, and Management

STEPHEN N. ROUS, M.D.

*Professor and Chairman, Department of Urology, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina*

The differentiation of scrotal masses consists of combining the basic principles of physical examination, particularly inspection and palpation, with an

---

This is an abstract of the lecture given by Dr. Rous at the 49th Annual McGuire Lecture Series, December 3, 1977, at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

A limited supply of booklets by Dr. Stephen N. Rous entitled, "Intra-Scrotal Problems with Particular Reference to Palpatory Findings," may be obtained from him, as long as they remain available, through the Department of Urology, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC 29403.

exact knowledge of the anatomy and pathology of the scrotum and its contents. The correct diagnosis of each of the nine common scrotal masses—epididymitis, epididymo-orchitis, torsion of the spermatic cord, hydrocele, scrotal hernia, spermatocele, varicocele, hematocele, and cancer of the testis—determines the treatment to be used, which can range from masterly inactivity to surgical intervention. Obviously, experience plays its part and the opportunity to examine scrotal masses should be an integral part of the education of the primary physician.