Intrascrotal Masses: Differentiation, Diagnosis, and Management

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