What is intratesticular varicocele?
Intratesticular varicocele occurs when the blood vessels within the testes become dilated. This rare condition occurs in <2% of patients presenting with symptoms. Not much is known about its causes, but prevalence is in the left testicle. Intratesticular varicocele is usually an incidental finding.

BACKGROUND
A varicocele is typically an extratesticular occurrence. It is a condition in which the pampiniform plexus veins within the spermatic cord become dilated > 2 mm³. An intratesticular varicocele occurs within the testicle and was first characterized in 1992. Left side prevalence is thought to be due to the left spermatic veins draining into the left renal vein opposed to the right spermatic veins which drain directly into the inferior vena cava.

In Unal's (2017) study, intratesticular varicoceles were commonly accompanied with ipsilateral extratesticular varicocele and testicular atrophy and were found incidentally by sonography. Ultrasound color Doppler with positive Valsalva maneuver confirms presence of intratesticular varicocele.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS
- Lesions
- Cysts
- Tubular ectasia of rete testes
- Abscess
- Focal orchitis

TREATMENT
Surgical intervention to treat varicoceles include varicocelectomy, spematic vein ligation or percutaneous embolization. According to Beecroft, embolization is the preferred method of treatment for the following reasons: minimally invasive outpatient procedure, quick recovery, potentially fewer missed workdays, minimized discomfort, and improved technique and materials provide better long-term results.

Occurrence of Intratesticular Varicocele in Symptomatic Patients

- Intratesticular Varicocele: 83%
- Extratesticular varicocele: 15%
- Other: 2%

References