

outlined in [Table 26-4](#).

**TABLE 26-4**  
**Defects of the Genitourinary Tract**

Defect	Therapeutic Management
<b>Inguinal hernia:</b> Protrusion of abdominal contents through inguinal canal into scrotum	Detected as painless inguinal swelling of variable size Surgical closure of inguinal defect
<b>Hydrocele:</b> Fluid in scrotum	Surgical repair indicated if persists past 1 year old
<b>Phimosis:</b> Narrowing or stenosis of preputial opening of foreskin	<b>Mild cases:</b> May not require therapy if urine flow not obstructed; steroid cream may be prescribed, typically twice a day for one month <b>Severe cases:</b> Circumcision or dorsal slit in severe, rare cases
<b>Hypospadias:</b> Urethral opening located behind glans penis or anywhere along ventral surface of penile shaft	Objectives of surgical correction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable child to void in standing position and direct stream voluntarily in usual manner</li> <li>• Improve physical appearance of genitalia</li> <li>• Produce a sexually adequate organ</li> </ul>
<b>Chordee:</b> Ventral curvature of penis, often associated with hypospadias	Surgical release of fibrous band causing the deformity
<b>Epispadias:</b> Meatal opening located on dorsal surface of penis	Surgical correction, usually including penile and urethral lengthening and bladder neck reconstruction (if necessary)
<b>Cryptorchidism:</b> Failure of one or both testes to descend normally through inguinal canal	Detected by inability to palpate testes within scrotum <b>Medical:</b> Administration of hormonal therapy has historically been used in some centers to induce testicular descent but is controversial and not currently recommended <b>Surgical:</b> Orchiopexy Objectives of therapy: Place and fix viable undescended testes in a normal scrotal position or remove nonviable testicular remnants Allows for easier examination of the testis because there is an increased risk of testicular cancer in undescended testes; early surgical correction may reduce the risk of cancer as well as infertility Decrease risk of trauma and torsion Decrease risk of inguinal hernia by closing the inguinal canal Potential improved body satisfaction
<b>Exstrophy of bladder:</b> Eversion of posterior bladder through anterior bladder wall and lower abdominal wall; associated with open pubic arch (a severe defect)	Potential objectives of surgical correction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve renal function</li> <li>• Attain urinary control</li> <li>• Provide adequate reconstructive repair</li> <li>• Improve sexual function</li> </ul>

## Phimosis

**Phimosis** is a narrowing or stenosis of the preputial opening of the