

foreskin that prevents retraction of the foreskin over the glans penis. It is a normal finding in infants and young boys and usually resolves as the child grows and the distal prepuce dilates. Occasionally the narrowing obstructs the flow of urine, resulting in a dribbling stream or even ballooning of the foreskin with accumulated urine during voiding.

**Balanitis** is an inflammation or infection of the phimotic foreskin, which occurs occasionally and is managed as any other inflammation or infection. Phimosis is often treated effectively by application of steroid cream twice a day for 1 month, with the option for surgical treatment with circumcision in severe cases.

## Nursing Care Management

Proper hygiene of the phimotic foreskin in infants and young boys consists of external cleansing during routine bathing. The foreskin should not be forcibly retracted, because it may create scarring that can prevent future retraction. Furthermore, retraction of the tight foreskin can result in paraphimosis, a condition in which the retracted foreskin cannot be replaced in its normal position over the glans. This causes edema and venous congestion created by constriction by the tight band of foreskin—a urologic emergency that requires immediate evaluation.

## Hydrocele

A **hydrocele** is the presence of peritoneal fluid in the scrotum between the parietal and visceral layers of the tunica vaginalis and is the most common cause of painless scrotal swelling in children and adolescents, along with nonincarcerated inguinal hernia. Hydroceles may be communicating or noncommunicating. A communicating hydrocele usually develops when the processus vaginalis does not close during development, allowing for communication with the peritoneum. Noncommunicating hydroceles have no connection to the peritoneum with fluid coming from the mesothelial lining of the tunica vaginalis. Hydroceles are common in newborns and often resolve spontaneously, usually by 12 months old. In older children, noncommunicating hydroceles may be idiopathic or a result of trauma, epididymitis, orchitis, testicular torsion, torsion of the appendix testis or appendix