Pediatric inguinal hernia

What is an inguinal hernia?
A hernia occurs when tissue, fluid or part of an organ bulges out of its normal place in the body.

An inguinal hernia, or groin hernia, is caused by a hole through the canal in the “floor” of the abdominal muscle, which allows a loop of intestine to fall out of place into the groin or scrotal sac or labia. In girls, the contents may include an ovary or fallopian tube. The bulge can become more prominent or seem bigger when your child cries or strains to have a bowel movement.

What to expect at your appointment:
Your child will be seen and evaluated in our Pediatric Surgery clinic by one of our pediatric surgeons and/or the physician assistant (PA). Surgical correction is usually recommended. The surgery usually is an outpatient procedure; you will arrive at the hospital on the morning of surgery and return home the same day.

What tests are required?
There is no test required for diagnosis. The diagnosis is made by physical examination.

Pediatric Surgery team:
Kara Cole, PA-C
John Draus, Jr, MD
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Contact information:
Pediatric Surgery office/clinic: 859-323-5625
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
After hours, please call 859-323-5321 and ask for the on-call Pediatric Surgery resident.