

Inguinal hernia

A hernia occurs when there is an opening in the abdominal wall that is large enough to allow bowel to come through. An inguinal hernia occurs in the groin area. The patient often has a bulge which you can feel and often see.

There are three different categories of inguinal hernias.

Reducible hernias- This is the most common type of hernia. These hernias can easily be pushed back in.

Incarcerated hernias- These hernias cannot be pushed back in. The child may complain of pain in the area. The child should be seen by a healthcare provider as soon as possible.

Strangulated hernias- This is the most serious hernia and is considered a surgical emergency. A strangulated hernia indicates the tissue going through the weak area is not getting enough blood supply. Children with a strangulated hernia can become very ill. Medical attention should be sought immediately.

All inguinal hernias require surgical repair, as they will not go away on their own.