CASE 35

Daniel Kent, a three-week-old baby, was being changed and bathed by his mother before an early evening feed. He became hungry and very fractious. While Daniel was crying very loudly, his mother noticed a rounded bulge at his right groin. The bulge disappeared again as he quietened down. Each time the baby cried loudly, the bulge appeared. When the family doctor was shown the site of the problem, he noted that it was just above and lateral to the scrotum. The doctor diagnosed a congenital, indirect, inguinal hernia. Daniel was admitted to the children’s unit as a day patient and the hernia was surgically repaired.

QUESTIONS

1 What is an inguinal hernia?
2 Why did it appear when Daniel was crying?
3 What is the anatomical explanation for the presence of the hernia?
4 Why was the hernia ‘indirect’?

YOUR ANSWERS

1 Inguinal hernia
2 Reason hernia appeared during crying
3 Anatomical reason for hernia
4 Reason hernia classed as indirect

Further reading


See McMinn pp. 246–248, 308