

# A new inguinal hernia classification helps the surgeon to perform custom made surgery



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**ABSTRACT** In recent time, different surgeons have attempted to classify the groin hernias (Nyhus, Zollinger, Aachen, Bendavid, Schumpelick, etc) with different criterias like the size of the hernia, its location and the diameter of the internal inguinal ring. The European Hernia Society has tried to put together all these parameters in order to produce an “easy to remember” classification. In our opinion, we are convinced that this classification is still not complete since some salient points in the description of the groin hernia for a practising surgeon are still missing.

In our study and with our clinical experience, we tried to classify groin hernias taking into consideration the logic of “simple to apply and easy to remember” concept. In reviewing all the existing classifications, we noticed that no mention was made regarding the position of the hernia in the posterior wall in direct hernia and that mixed hernias were not well represented hence our conviction for a new classification. This aspect is important for us because we use a custom made surgery and a method which changes depending on the diagnosis.

## We identified five major types of groin hernias:

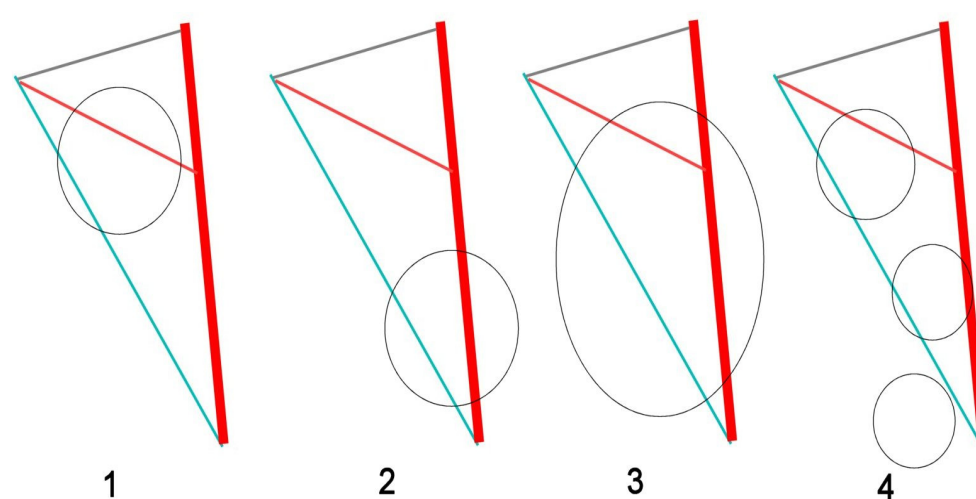
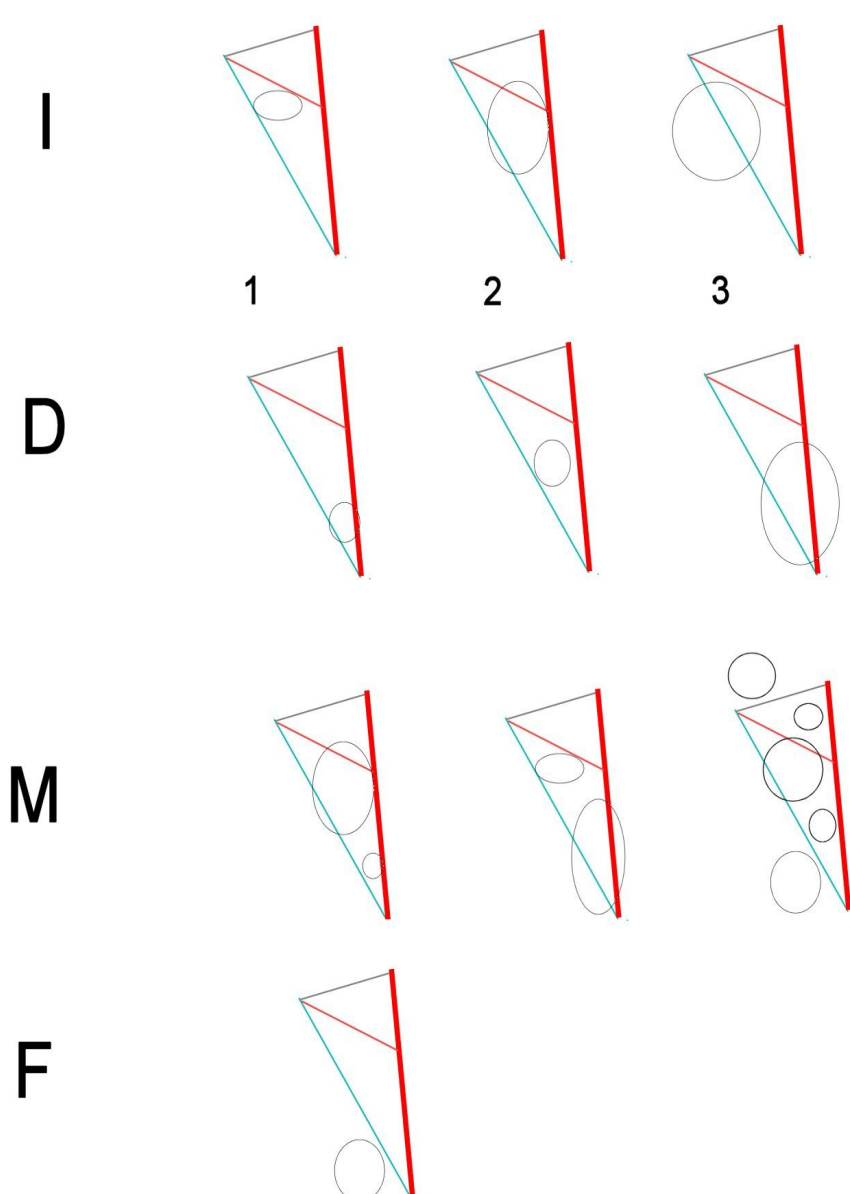
- Indirect hernia.
- Direct hernia.
- Femoral hernia.
- Mixed hernia.
- Recurrent hernia.

Each type has three or four subtypes regarding position, size and number of hernias. Indirect Hernia (I) has three subtypes regarding the size. Direct Hernia (D) has three subtypes regarding the position (High, Low or Total). Mixed Hernia (M) is classified for its prevalent diagnosis and number of hernia openings. Recurrent Hernia has four subtypes regarding its position and number of hernias. The Femoral Hernia has only one subtype to show if it is present or not. This classification is represented by a scheme easy to remember.

INGUINAL HERNIA CLASSIFICATION				
TYPE	SUBTYPE	DESCRIPTION	GHC	EHS
INDIRECT	1: SMALL 2: MEDIUM 3: LARGE	SINGLE INDIRECT HERNIA	I	L
DIRECT	1: HIGH 2: LOW 3: TOTAL	SINGLE DIRECT HERNIA	D	M
MIXED	1: INDIRECT + DIRECT 2: DIRECT + INDIRECT 3: MULTIPLE or FEMORAL	SINGLE DIRECT HERNIA	M	
FEMORAL	0: NONE 1: PRESENT	SINGLE DIRECT HERNIA	F	R
RECURRENT	1: HIGH 2: LOW 3: TOTAL 4: MULTIPLE	RECURRENT	R	R

## Primary Inguinal hernia

## Recurrent Inguinal hernia



	I	D	M	F	R
0					
1					
2					
3					
X					

	I	D	M	F	R
0					
1				X	X
2	X		X		
3		X			
X					

In this way the surgeon can use the combination of these numbers and letters to properly describe the type of hernia during surgery.  
**Example:** I2D3F0 stands for a mixed hernia (indirect and direct) with the indirect component laying on the inguinal canal and the direct component occupying the entire posterior wall also classified as M2 because the direct hernia is predominant.

The use of this classification is functional when a different surgical technique is applied based on the diagnosis.