

Care Of Newborn Boys With Or Without Circumcision



Normal foreskin

A thin protective skin called the foreskin covers the normal male penis. You should wash your baby boy's penis gently with soap and water every day, during the baby's bath.

- For most boys, the foreskin slowly loosens, and can be pushed back behind the head of the penis. This usually happens when the boy is between 1 and 5 years old. Until then, you only need to clean the outside of the foreskin.
- When your son is older, you should teach him how to pull back the foreskin and clean the head of his penis at least once every day.



What is a circumcision?

Circumcision is a surgery done to take off the foreskin around the tip of a boy's penis. This leaves the end of the penis without the skin covering.

If you decide not to circumcise your son, his penis will look as it does now (see picture 1 below). If you decide to circumcise your son, his penis will look like picture 2.

Picture 1

Without circumcision



Picture 2

After circumcision



Should I have my baby boy circumcised?

There is no medical reason for doing a circumcision. Some parents want to have the circumcision done for cultural or religious reasons. Some parents want a circumcision done because other family members have had one. Some parents believe that circumcision will make the baby's penis easier to keep clean, and keep it from getting some infections. Many parents choose not to have their son circumcised. **There is no right or wrong choice.** (over)

What problems can be caused by this surgery?

- Bleeding.
- Infection.
- Too much or too little foreskin taken off.
- Allergic reaction to the medicine used to numb the skin of the penis.
- Pain.
- A scar can form.

If you choose to have your son circumcised:

- Tell your health care professional (Nurse, Doctor or Nurse Practitioner).
- While you are in the hospital, a health care provider will come to your room and tell you about the circumcision.
- You will need to sign a paper that gives permission to circumcise your baby.
- A Doctor or Nurse Practitioner will do the circumcision.



How is the circumcision done?

Your baby will be swaddled and put on a special bed to keep him from moving too much. He may be given a pacifier. The Doctor or Nurse Practitioner will clean off the penis and inject a medicine to numb the skin until the circumcision is over. A special metal "bell" is put over the end of the penis to protect it. The foreskin is pulled up between the bell and a metal plate. The foreskin is clamped between the bell and the metal plate, and taken off. After the clamp is off, the area is covered with white petroleum jelly, and wrapped with gauze.

Medical reasons not to do a circumcision.

Your baby should not have a circumcision in the newborn nursery if:

- The mother has an active herpes infection.
- There is a family history of bleeding (hemophilia).
- The baby's penis is not normal.

Does my baby feel the operation?

We use numbing medicine to lessen the discomfort of the circumcision. But some babies may still feel pain. We do everything we can to keep your baby comfortable during and after the circumcision. Your baby will be given acetaminophen (Tylenol) for pain. Cuddling your son right after the circumcision may help him relax and be more comfortable.



(over)

After the Circumcision

How should I care for my baby?

In 30-60 minutes the numbing medicine will wear off, and your baby may be fussy. Try these ways to comfort him.

- Cuddle and hold him. Do not put any pressure on his penis.
- Feed your baby.
- Check his diaper every 2 - 3 hours. If it is wet or dirty, change it right away. Remember to put it on loosely. See the part of this booklet called "How should I clean the baby's penis".
- Let the baby lie on his back.
- Try rocking the baby, singing to him, or playing relaxing music.
- If your baby still seems to be in pain, you may give Tylenol Infant Drops:
 - Ask your nurse when the baby last had Tylenol. He should **not** get it again any sooner than 6 hours after the last dose.
 - Do not give Tylenol more than 3 times in a day (24 hours).
 - Do not give Tylenol for more than 3 days.
 - Do not give Tylenol for fever - call your health care provider if the baby has a fever of more than 100.3° Fahrenheit (38° Centigrade).
 - Tylenol may make your baby sleepy. You may need to wake him up to feed him. If you are not able to feed your baby and he misses 2 feedings in a row, call your health care provider.



What is normal after the circumcision?

- Your baby should pee (urinate) as usual.
- It is normal if the penis:
 - Looks red, swollen and bruised for the first day or two.
 - Has spots of blood and/or a yellow crust at the tip.
 - Has bruises where the numbing medicine was given.
- Usually 1 week after the circumcision is done, the penis is healed.

How should I clean the baby's penis?

- Wash your hands first.
- Take off the old piece of gauze with each diaper change. If the gauze sticks, gently pour warm water over the penis and gauze till the gauze comes loose.



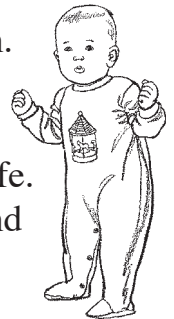
- Carefully clean the circumcision site by gently blotting or pressing with a wet wash cloth. Do not give your baby a tub bath until his umbilical cord has fallen off.
- Put a lot of white petroleum jelly such as Vaseline on new gauze and wrap the gauze around the circumcision site. This keeps the baby's penis from sticking to the diaper. You can buy white petroleum jelly and gauze at any drug store.
- Do not put any powder, ointment, alcohol or baby wipes on the baby's penis for the first week.
- Wash your hands again after the diaper change.
- Keep on cleaning the penis and using Vaseline for 4 - 5 days.



What if it looks like my baby still has too much foreskin?

When we do a circumcision, we must decide how much foreskin to take off. We do not have a way to measure exactly how much skin to take off. We need to leave enough "growing room" so that the foreskin will easily stretch as your baby grows into a man.

At first, it may look as if your baby has extra skin around the penis. As your child gets older, the circumcision will look different than it does in the first 2 - 3 years of life. Some babies have a fat pad around the penis. This could cause the skin to push up and partly cover the head of the penis. It is important that you pull this skin back and clean it well. This fat pad usually goes away by the time your child goes to school.



If you have questions about your baby's circumcision

Please call Parkland Newborn Nursery at (214) 590-8381 and ask for a Nurse Practitioner who knows about circumcision.



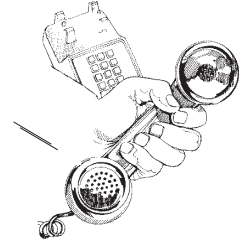
Go back to your clinic or come to the Emergency Room if you notice:

- A lot of bleeding (blood soaking the gauze).
- A bad smell or drainage from the penis.
- Redness or swelling of the penis after 2 days.
- The skin of the penis not healing well in 7-10 days.
- Fever more than 100.3° Fahrenheit (38° Centigrade).



If you have gone home from the hospital and then want to have the circumcision done:

- Please call your local health clinic, Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Clinic, or your private health care provider to make an appointment for the circumcision.
- If they are not able to do the circumcision, and if your baby was born at Parkland, call the Parkland Newborn Nursery at (214) 590-8381. Ask to speak to a Nurse Practitioner who knows about circumcisions, and who can give you some phone numbers to call.



If you have any questions . . .

Call the Parkland Newborn Nursery at (214) 590-8381 and ask for a Nurse Practitioner who knows about circumcisions.

**If you are having the circumcision done
at your local clinic (COPC),
please bring your insurance or
Medicaid card with you.**

