
What is circumcision?

Circumcision is surgery to remove the foreskin of the penis.

How should I care for my child after surgery?

Some guidelines to follow are listed below.

Cleaning and protecting the area

- Leave your child's dressing in place for as long as the doctor directs.
 - Use petroleum jelly (ointment) on the tip of the penis to help prevent sticking of the diaper or dressing.
 - You can most often remove the dressing with your child's first bath if it has not fallen off already.
- Do not give your child a bath for 2 days after surgery unless your doctor says it is OK.
 - You may give your child a sponge bath until then.
 - Gently clean the penis with warm water each day.
 - If the area becomes soiled, clean it the best you can. It is OK to use baby wipes.
 - You may give your child a bath or shower after 2 days.
 - Avoid long baths and swimming for 10 days after surgery.
- Starting after the first bath, put ointment on the entire penis:
 - With every diaper change for 1 week.
 - 3 times each day for 1 week if your child no longer wears diapers.
- Using ointment helps prevent the penile skin from sticking to the head of the penis. You may use any of these:
 - Neosporin
 - Bacitracin
 - Polysporin
 - Triple antibiotic ointment
 - Vaseline
- Have your child wear loose-fitting clothing. For a baby, use loose-fitting diapers.

Giving medicines

- The doctor may prescribe pain medicine to help manage your child's discomfort at home. Give the medicine exactly as prescribed and only as long as needed for more severe pain.
- If regular acetaminophen (Tylenol or less costly store brand) controls your child's discomfort, use that instead of the prescribed pain medicine. Follow the directions on the box carefully, or ask your child's doctor how much medicine to give.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Circumcision, continued

DO NOT:

- Give your child more than 5 doses of acetaminophen in a 24-hour period.
- Give acetaminophen to babies younger than 3 months old without talking with your child's doctor.
- Give ibuprofen to babies younger than 6 months old without talking with your child's doctor.
- Give acetaminophen and prescription pain medicine together.
- Give acetaminophen and ibuprofen together.
- Your child's doctor will let you know if your child needs any other medicines.

What else do I need to know?

- A small amount of oozing from the incision site is OK. **Call your child's doctor right away if you notice large blood clots or bleeding that does not stop even after you put pressure on the area.**
- There may also be a yellow crust over the area. This is part of normal healing and should get better in 1 week.
- Do not be alarmed by swelling around the penis. This may take up to 3 to 4 weeks to go away. Call the doctor if you are unsure whether your child's swelling is too severe.
- Have your child do quiet activities (such as read, color or watch TV) for 1 week. Do not let them run, jump or climb.
- **DO NOT** allow your child to play on straddle or riding toys. Take care to protect the penis from injury.
- Have your child eat their normal diet. Give them small amounts at first. Anesthesia can cause nausea and vomiting (throwing up) for the first few hours after surgery. **Call the doctor if your child cannot drink fluids without getting sick for more than 8 hours.**

When should I call the doctor?

Call your child's doctor **right away** if your child has:

- Redness that spreads to the base of the penis, scrotum or abdomen (belly).
- Large blood clots or bleeding that does not stop even after you put pressure on the area.
- Yellow coating or crust that has not gotten better in 1 week.
- Pain not helped by pain medicine.
- A fever over 101.5°F without other signs of sickness.
- Problems drinking fluids without getting sick for more than 8 hours.

Also call if you have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.