



Pediatric Surgical Associates, Ltd.

Patient and Family Education

Circumcision

What is circumcision?

A circumcision is a procedure to surgically remove the foreskin from the penis. This is most often done shortly after birth, but sometimes a circumcision is done later in a child's life, even in adulthood.

How is circumcision done?

For infants less than 28 days old, a circumcision can be done in our office. Several steps are taken to minimize discomfort and calm your baby during the procedure. These usually include Marcaine/Lidocaine injection and a pacifier dipped in sweetened water. For children older than 4 months, circumcision is done at the hospital using general anesthesia.

The foreskin is removed and the skin edges are brought back together. Your doctor may use surgical glue or stitches along the skin edges.

How long will surgery take?

The actual surgery takes about 20 minutes. Infants circumcised in the office will stay another 30 minutes to monitor for bleeding. Older patients circumcised in the hospital will spend 30-60 minutes in the recovery room. After your child is awake and out of the recovery room, you will be able to be with him. He will be able to go home with you in about one hour.

What can I expect after surgery?

The end of the penis may be red and swollen. It may ooze a little blood for the first several hours, and may be tender for a few days. It will heal in about a week. If there are stitches, they will dissolve on their own within 1 to 3 weeks. If surgical glue was used it will come off on its own in about a week.

There will be some pain during the first 24-36 hours; older boys may have more sensitivity lasting 1-2 weeks. You may give your son acetaminophen (Tylenol or another brand) to make him comfortable. If your son is over the age of 6 months, you may alternate acetaminophen with Ibuprofen (Motrin).

How should I care for the incision?

If your son wears diapers, check for bleeding or drainage each time you change them. Clean the diaper area as you normally do.

Apply ointment as recommended by the doctor to the incision. Let it melt around the area; do not try to spread it. Do this at each diaper change as directed for one week.

For older boys not in diapers, apply the ointment 4 times a day for 1 week. You may want to use gauze or thin mini-pads in the underwear to reduce stains.

After 24 hours, your son should bathe or shower. Bathe in plain warm water and soak 10 minutes. This promotes healing and can be soothing to the child.

Do not wash off the white or yellow tissue, it is a normal part of the healing process. It will go away as the circumcision heals. After the third day, during baths, gently pull back the remaining foreskin to keep it clean and keep it from sticking or adhering to the head of the penis.

If bleeding occurs, apply gentle pressure to the incision for 5 minutes. If bleeding does not stop or starts again, call your doctor.

When should I call the doctor?

- Bleeding from the incision that does not stop after 5 minutes of gentle pressure.
- Not urinating at least every 8 hours.
- Pain that is not relieved with the medicine that was prescribed.
- Temperature higher than 101°F (38.4 C).
- Increasing swelling, pain, or redness around the area after the first 24 hours.
- Pus coming from the incision.
- The circumcision does not seem to be healing.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please call your child's doctor at Pediatric Surgical Associates at (612) 813-8000 or 1-800-992-6983.