

Patient Care > Circumcision

Definition:

A circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin of the penis. In the newborn period, it is usually performed without anesthesia in the nursery, however as the child gets older the procedure is performed under general anesthesia in an outpatient setting.

Surgery:

There are two types of circumcision. In the freehand circumcision, the foreskin is removed from the penis and the edges of the foreskin are sutured to the edges of the skin around the penis. In the Plastibel type of circumcision, a grooved plastic ring is placed underneath the foreskin. A suture is tied around the foreskin on the ring like a tourniquet, and the foreskin is trimmed. In 7-14 days the ring comes off. The major risks of a circumcision are bleeding and infection. Your surgeon will decide which technique is most appropriate for your child.

Care of the Circumcision at Home:

The incision or skin around the ring is normally slightly red and tender. Tenderness should be almost gone by the third day. Since the area is tender, the diaper is applied loosely to prevent friction against the penis. The dressing or Vaseline gauze around the incision may fall off by itself or should be removed 24 hours after the surgery. Gently clean the penis with water three times a day or whenever it becomes soiled. Soap is usually not necessary. Your child may have a tub bath 3 days after surgery. Vaseline or an antibiotic ointment can be applied to the incision after cleaning. If a Plastibel ring is used it should fall off by 14 days (10 days average). Do not pull on the ring as you may cause bleeding.

Call your surgeon if urine comes out in dribbles instead of a straight stream, the penis is blue or black, there is more than a small amount of bleeding, the normal skin of the penis becomes red or swollen, any pus is present, or the ring has been attached for more than 14 days.

Disclaimer: Your child's condition is unique. The information contained on this web site is not intended to substitute for advice from a doctor or nurse. If you are unsure about any aspect of your patient's care, please contact us at 303-839-6001, or talk to your pediatrician.