

## Circumcision

Circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin that covers the head of the penis. This procedure is performed by one of our doctors usually the morning after delivery. Your pediatrician will provide follow-up. It is important to remember that circumcision is not required. The latest research reveals that there are no health benefits related solely to circumcision and that the procedure is essentially performed for cosmetic reasons. The potential benefits of circumcision are not sufficient enough for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to recommend that all infant boys be circumcised. Parents may choose to have their sons circumcised for many different reasons including religious practices, social influences, and cultural beliefs. Since circumcision is not essential for health, parents should consider the risks and benefits of the procedure when deciding what is best for their child.

❖ Possible medical benefits to circumcision include:

- A lower risk of urinary tract infections (UTI)
- A lower risk of penile cancer, though the risk for this type of cancer is very rare in both circumcised and uncircumcised males
- A slightly lower risk of getting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Prevention of phimosis, a condition in uncircumcised males that makes foreskin retraction impossible
- Prevention of infections of the foreskin & easier genital hygiene, though proper hygiene can easily be performed by an uncircumcised male to prevent such problems

❖ Circumcision is associated with few and infrequent complications, although with any surgical procedure there are some risks/complications including:

- The end of the penis may be raw and bleed after the surgery. This should heal in time, and most bleeding is minimal.
- The penis may not look cosmetically pleasing.
- The tip of the penis may be injured and may require further surgery at a later date.
- More skin may need to be removed at a later date.
- Improper healing may result in scar tissue which may cause blockage of urine flow from the end of the penis. This may require further surgery at a later date.
- Infection could occur at the site or may spread into the bloodstream. Treatment may require antibiotics.

During one of your second trimester visits you will be asked to review and sign a Ruch Clinic permit for your infant's circumcision. Your provider will discuss any issues or questions you may have about circumcision so that you can make an informed decision about whether or not to have your baby boy circumcised.