

Care of the Penis After Circumcision

Circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin of the penis. This procedure is performed with permission of the parents when the baby is about 24 hours old.

What to Expect

There will be a small amount of bleeding during the first 12-24 hours. If you notice anything more than small amounts, let your nurse or pediatrician know. There will be some swelling of the penis after the procedure, which should go away during the first week. By the second day, a yellowish-white discharge may cover the end of the penis. This discharge is normal and part of the healing process; do not try to wipe or wash it off. It will clear up in 2-3 days. The circumcision usually heals in 7-10 days.

Home Care of Circumcised Infant

- If baby is circumcised the day of discharge, apply petroleum jelly and a gauze pad to the penis.
- Do not wash the circumcision area for 24 hours unless soiled with stool. Avoid using soap during this time and be gentle when cleaning.
- After the circumcision is 24 hours old, wash daily with mild soap and water and dry gently. Continue to apply petroleum jelly for the first fourteen days with every diaper change and bathing, pushing the foreskin back at the 3 and 9 o'clock position.
- Continue to push the foreskin back as described above with every diaper change and bathing until the child reaches 2 years of age or is potty trained. This must be done to avoid having the foreskin reattaching to the tip of the penis. If the skin does reattach, another procedure may be needed to be done.

Observe For

- Increased swelling. Swelling should not increase after the first day.
- Discharge with a foul odor – notify your physician.
- If bleeding is bright red and will not stop after applying pressure for a minute, notify your physician.
- If baby doesn't urinate for 24 hours after the procedure, call your pediatrician.