

Care of your newborn's penis



Circumcision

1. Circumcision is the removal of the foreskin from the tip of the penis so the head of the penis is exposed.
2. Complications of circumcision include excessive bleeding, infection, pain and surgical injury to the penis. You can request local anesthesia for your baby to prevent pain.
3. Parents should discuss their options and reasons for having a circumcision performed on their baby.

Circumcision care

1. Little special care of the circumcised penis is necessary. Rinse the circumcision area at each diaper change by squeezing warm water over the tip of the penis. You may use Vaseline® or A&D ointment on the tip of the penis with each diaper change for the first few days after the circumcision. This may prevent the circumcision site from sticking to the diaper. After the circumcision is healed you can bathe your baby in a tub without fear of harming the circumcision or penis.
2. There should be no bleeding. The head of the penis may show signs of irritation and appear whitish or yellowish in places as it heals.
3. If used, the plastibell will fall off in 3-5 days. The rim of skin in front of the string will turn black and come off with the bell. Do not pull the plastibell even if it is barely on—the plastibell will come off by itself. You will probably find it loose in your baby's diaper. Do not use Vaseline® with the plastibell.
4. If Gelfoam is used, it also should be allowed to fall off by itself.
5. Call the doctor if the penis becomes excessively red or swollen, or has unusual drainage that is green or smelly, or if your baby does not pass urine for longer than 8 hours.

Care of the uncircumcised baby

1. Care of the uncircumcised boy is quite easy. Washing and rinsing your baby's genitals (private parts) daily is all that is needed.
2. Do not pull back the foreskin (skin covering the tip of the penis) in an infant. Forcing the foreskin back may harm the penis, causing pain, bleeding, and possibly scar tissue. The natural separation of the foreskin from the tip of the penis may take several years. When the boy is older, he can learn to pull back the foreskin and clean under it daily.