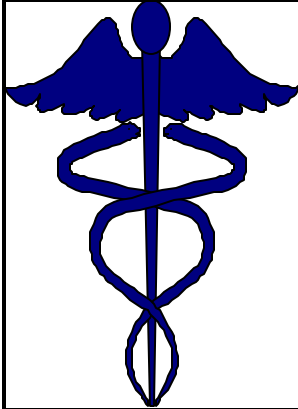


Circumcision Care

MAJ Niel A. Johnson, MD



FOCUS ON...

Information about your Health from the Directorate of Primary Care Services, Ft. Gordon, Georgia

What is a circumcision?

The circumcision is a minor procedure done to remove the excess foreskin from the penis.

Does everybody get circumcised?

With the general opinion of the medical community favoring the practice of circumcising newborn males, nearly everyone has it done. Circumcision safely removes that small portion of the foreskin which has a tendency to become infected during childhood, thus minimizing that risk. It is also believed that circumcision reduces the risk for penile cancer later in life, as well as reduces the risk of cervical cancer in their female partners later on, too.

What are the methods used for circumcision?

The **Gomco** technique involves using a metal thimble-like apparatus to safely separate the foreskin and protect the head of the penis, while the excess foreskin is trimmed off. The **Plastibell** technique uses a plastic ring-like apparatus to do the same thing. The major difference is that the plastic ring is left on the end of the penis until the foreskin heals over. Either method is very safe and easy to do. The method your doctor chooses depends on the shape of your baby's penis, the available equipment and personal preference. Neither method will interfere with the baby's urinary habits. Most physicians use some numbing medicine to prevent the baby from feeling any pain during the procedure, but some choose not to because the procedure is over so quickly.

When will the Plastibell ring fall off?

The little plastic ring should fall off anytime up to 2-3 weeks after the procedure. Do not try to help it along, as it's designed to fall off when the healing foreskin is ready. When it does fall off, you may notice a spot or two of blood on the foreskin, and that's OK.

What if the ring doesn't fall off?

A Plastibell ring that stays on for more than 3 weeks is at risk for infection. You should bring your son in to get checked out and have the ring removed safely in the clinic.

What problems can arise after a circumcision?

- painful tip of the penis
- redness
- swelling
- bleeding from the foreskin edge

Are these problems serious?

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No, these are common effects of the circumcision and are quite minor. Even if they are present, your baby may not seem bothered by them at all. Keep in mind that if something bothers you, you should call the clinic for advice or make arrangements to bring your son for an evaluation to make sure everything's OK.

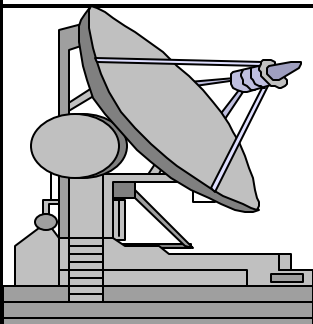
How do I clean the healing area?

Gently fold back the foreskin when bathing your baby. Use a gentle soap and plenty of warm water to rinse off the lather. Carefully wash out any creamy-white debris that appears tucked inside the folds of the foreskin.

When the ring comes off, be sure to gently pull back the foreskin and clean behind it. The newly-cut edge of the foreskin will have a tendency to stick back to the head of the penis if this is not done. Boys that had the Gomco technique done should have this care done as soon as the little scabs fall off (about a day or two after the procedure).

For what reasons should I follow-up, call the clinic, etc.?

If you notice any signs of poor healing or infection, such as those listed above, you should call for an appointment or stop by for an evaluation.



The Directorate of Primary Care Services

	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Appointments</u>	<u>Messages</u>
Connelly Signal Health Clinic	0600-1600*	787-7300	787-7360
Signal Health Care Clinic #4 (TMC #4)	0600-1600*	787-7300	787-7360
Main Family Practice Clinic	0600-2030	787-7300	787-7360
Internal Medicine Clinic	0800-1600*	787-7300	787-7360
Primary Care Clinic	0800-1600*	787-7300	787-7360

Medication Renewals 787-7360

Pharmacy Direct Refills 787-1710

Emergency Dept. Advice Line	787-5222/6727
Poison Control	1-800-282-5846
Outpatient Pharmacy	787-7010
Labor and Deliver @ MCG	721-2687
Emergency	dial 911
Information Desk @ EAMC	787-5811/4568
TriCare Information Hotline	1-800-333-5331

This Patient Information Handout is produced by the Directorate of Primary Care Services, Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Ft. Gordon, GA.

Information is current and correct at the time of the last revision. This information sheet is not intended to replace an evaluation by a competent medical provider, but rather to supplement the treatment plan outlined by the patient's health care provider. Moreover, much of the information is intended to be of a general nature and it cannot be assumed that such information will necessarily apply to specific individuals. Opinions and facts do not necessarily reflect that of the United States Government or its subordinate agencies.

Questions, comments and corrections should be forwarded to:

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Extended Hours Clinic is held at the Main FP Clinic, and is available for all the soldiers, retirees, and family members seen at any of the Directorate of Primary Care Clinics.