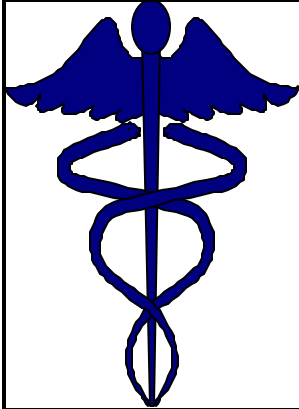


Hygiene and the Uncircumcised Boy

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?

Although the general opinion of the medical community favors the practice of circumcising newborn males, not 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 symptoms of an infected foreskin?

- painful tip of the penis
- redness
- swelling

What causes infections of the foreskin?

Bacteria trapped in the folds of the excess skin of the foreskin are allowed to multiply and lead to infection. Improper hygiene is a risk for this infection.

What is the treatment for foreskin infections?

Treating foreskin infections involves cleaning the area thoroughly (see below) and possibly using antibiotics. Fortunately, these infections are usually minor and easy to handle.

Will my baby suffer if he is not circumcised?

No. Other than increasing his chances of infection and not benefitting from the other benefits of circumcision, there is no significant risk by being an uncircumcised male. Cleanliness of the baby's penis is possible in uncircumcised males too. It just takes a little more patience and practice. The foreskin will naturally fold back by the time he is an adult, thus reducing that space for infection.

How do I care for the baby's uncircumcised penis?

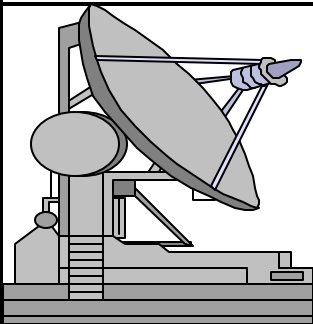
Gently fold back the foreskin when bathing your baby. Use a gentle soap and plenty of warm water to rinse off the lather. Carefully wash out any creamy-white debris that appears tucked inside the folds of the foreskin.

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

If you notice any signs of infection, such as those listed above, you should call for an appointment or stop by for an evaluation. If you wish to have your baby circumcised, you should also make plans to come in and discuss it with your doctor.



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.