

Circumcision Care

Circumcision is a surgical procedure to remove the foreskin covering the tip of the penis (glans). A local anesthetic is used during the quick procedure, and your baby will be gently restrained to keep him as comfortable as possible.

If your baby has just been circumcised, it is important to know how to care for him immediately following the procedure. Your doctor or nurse will let you know what type of circumcision was performed.

If your baby had a Gomco or Mogen circumcision:

Place a small four- by four-inch piece of gauze with petroleum jelly over the end of the penis for the first 24 hours. Change the gauze with each diaper change. After the first 24 hours, apply petroleum jelly directly to the end of the penis for 5 days.

You may see some minor bleeding from the penis for the first 24 hours, but then the bleeding should stop. If the bleeding does not stop, notify your pediatrician immediately.

As the healing continues, there may be a *small* amount of yellow drainage on the head of the penis. This is normal and does not mean there is an infection.

If your baby had a PLASTIBELL circumcision:

You do not need to apply petroleum jelly and gauze. The bell will fall off by itself within five to 10 days. Do not attempt to remove the bell.

What to Expect

Your infant's penis may be red, swollen and sore for three to five days following the circumcision. A yellowish-white coating may develop on the end of the penis; this is normal and not a sign of infection.

Complete healing should take seven to 10 days.

What can I do to keep my baby comfortable after the circumcision?

Your baby may be fussy after circumcision. Cuddling him close and feeding him can provide comfort. While the circumcision heals, keep his diaper dry and loose, changing him frequently to prevent irritation from urine and stool. If your baby seems extremely fussy or irritable, or refuses to eat after the procedure, talk to your doctor.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) may be ordered by your doctor. Follow the doctor's instructions for dosing and frequency of administration.





Cleaning

Avoid tub baths. Instead, sponge-bathe your baby until the circumcision has healed. Clean the penis by gently lathering up a washcloth and squeezing warm, soapy water over the penis. Rinse with warm water and gently pat dry. Do not try to wash off the yellow drainage. Remember, this is part of the healing process. Avoid using baby wipes on the penis until it is healed.

Call your doctor right way if you notice any of the following:

- Persistent bleeding or blood on diaper (more than the size of a quarter)
- Increasing redness or swelling of the penis, especially after the third day
- Fever
- Large amount of yellow or foul-smelling drainage
- Presence of pus-filled blisters
- If your baby does not urinate normally within six to eight hours after the circumcision
- If the plastic bell slides down the shaft of the penis or does not fall off after 10 days
- If the infant is extremely fussy and irritable, has a high-pitched cry or refuses to eat

The most frequent complications post-circumcision are minor bleeding and local infection, both of which can be easily treated by your baby's doctor.

We encourage you, as the parents, to ask questions about your baby's care and express any concerns you may have. Schedule a follow-up appointment with your baby's doctor as directed. For additional information on your baby's care, check with his nurse or doctor. We are here to help and support you.

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