



# Newborn Circumcision

## What is a circumcision?

Circumcision is a surgery that removes the foreskin of the penis. The foreskin is a piece of skin that protects the end of the penis. The surgery takes about 15 minutes.



- The American Academy of Pediatrics says that circumcision is not medically needed for a baby boy to be healthy or clean. Circumcision is an elective procedure. This means that it is your choice to have it done or not.
- You will be asked to sign a consent form before the surgery. Please feel free to ask the doctor any questions you have.

## What are the risks?

The risks of circumcision include bleeding, infection, medicine reaction, and cosmetic problems.

- **Bleeding** There can be mild bleeding. Special gauze is used to stop the bleeding. It will fall off in 1-to-2 days. Severe bleeding is very rare. Your baby will be checked regularly for any bleeding.
- **Infection** During the surgery, everything is kept very clean and germ free. Infection can happen, but it is rare.
- **Medicine Reaction** Your baby will be given a numbing medicine called Lidocaine. Sometimes, Lidocaine can cause a rash.
- **Cosmetic Injury** There is a risk of damage to the penis or to the way it looks. Circumcision is done the same way each time. Even so, the foreskin may end up longer or shorter than the tip of the penis. Rarely, more surgery may be needed.



## Will my baby be kept comfortable during the circumcision?

Yes, your baby will be kept comfortable during the circumcision:

- A small amount of sugar water is given to help your baby relax.
- A tiny dose of Lidocaine is also given. Lidocaine is a numbing medicine. It numbs the penis so that it does not have any feeling during the procedure. The Lidocaine is given as a shot into the area around the penis.
- After the procedure, acetaminophen is given to your baby.  
*Acetaminophen is also called Tylenol.*

## How do I care of my baby when I go home?

Your nurse will teach you how to take care of your baby when you go home. Please be sure to ask your nurse any questions you have.

- Clean your baby's bottom as you normally would. Squeeze water from a wet cloth over your baby's penis. Pat it dry.
- Sponge bathe your baby until the penis is healed. This is usually 7-to-10 days. Then you can give a full bath.
- The penis will be red and raw. Do not rub it. It may have a yellow ooze over it which is part of normal healing. Don't wipe it away.
- Use a Vaseline and gauze bandage every diaper change for 1-to-2 days. Then apply a large amount of Vaseline to coat the end of the penis. Do this every diaper change for 3-to-4 more days until it no longer looks red or raw.
- A small amount of bleeding is normal. If you see more than a quarter-size spot of blood on the diaper or constant bleeding, tightly hold a cloth or gauze over the penis. This will help stop the bleeding.  
*Call your baby's doctor.*



### **When do I need to call my baby's doctor?**

Call your baby's doctor if:

- Your baby does not urinate within 24 hours.
- The normal yellow ooze smells bad.
- Your baby has a temperature of greater than 100.4° rectally.
- There is redness moving up the penis or onto the belly.
- There is bleeding larger than a quarter-size spot in the diaper or constant bleeding.

**Always ask about anything you do not understand!**