

PATIENT INFORMATION

Circumcision in children

What is a circumcision?

Circumcision is an operation to remove the foreskin which is the sleeve of skin around the tip of the penis.

Removing the foreskin changes the appearance of the penis and it is important to discuss this with your son before surgery to prepare him.

Why is the operation needed?

Circumcision is carried out on boys who have a history of recurrent troublesome infections to try and prevent these. Circumcision is also performed on boys who have a very tight scarred foreskin as part of their treatment (called 'BXO' – Balanitis xerotica obliterans).

This operation may also be carried out, although not on the NHS, for religious/cultural reasons.

The operation

- Circumcision will normally be carried out as a day case so that your son can return home on the same day as the operation.
- The operation involves the surgeon cutting away the foreskin. Stitches may/may not be put around the head of the penis.
- If stitches are used, these are dissolvable and so do not require removing. It can take a few weeks for them to dissolve completely.

After the operation

It is important to tell your son about the change in appearance of his penis.

After the operation the penis will look red and quite swollen for a number of days. This is normal and is part of the healing process. The swelling and redness will gradually settle but may take a few weeks.

Your son will be under observation for a few hours on the ward after his operation but will then usually be able to go home after he has passed urine.

Risks of this operation will be discussed fully with you when you sign the consent form. Risks are rare but may include bleeding and infection.

Looking after your son at home

- We advise, to prevent discomfort, that your son wears loose fitting clothes for the journey home and for a few days after the operation (for example, tracksuit trousers, 'jogging bottoms' rather than jeans.).
- Before leaving hospital you may be given some antibiotic ointment to apply to the tip of your son's penis. This should be applied twice daily and should continue until the penis is dry.
- Allow babies to spend time (where possible) without a nappy on. When changing nappies during the first few days after the operation, it is advised that a coating of Vaseline is smeared onto the inside of the nappy. This prevents any friction between the wound and the nappy.
- Your son should be given painkilling medicine as directed by your nurse. Always read the instructions on the bottle. It is advised that the painkilling medicine is given regularly for the first 24-48 hours to prevent discomfort becoming too bad.
- Your son should not be bathed for five days after surgery. Sponge washes are allowed to prevent infection.
- Occasionally a dressing is put on over the penis. This dressing usually falls off on its own however, if still in place by the time your son is allowed a bath, the dressing can be soaked off in the bath. Sometimes it may take a few consecutive baths before the dressing comes off completely.
- Your son should rest at home for a few days and should not take part in any sport or strenuous activities until his penis has healed and is dry. This usually takes about 10-14 days. Sometimes a scab may form at the tip of the penis which may take a few weeks to fall off.

Follow up arrangements

Your son will be reviewed in the outpatient clinic. This may be around three months after the circumcision being undertaken. The doctors/nurses will let you know when your son is due to return for his check up and the actual appointment will be sent to you in the post. At

the outpatient appointment your son may be asked (if toilet trained) to undertake a urine test, so it is helpful if he can arrive at the appointment with a 'full bladder'.

Who else can I contact for more specific help or information?

You can contact your consultant via their secretary on 01284 712549.

You will also find our nurse specialist colleagues at the West Suffolk Hospital happy to answer queries:

Urology Nurse Practitioner on 01284 712806 or 01284 713229

Other contacts

Admissions Telephone 01284 712980

Appointments Telephone 01284 713713

What should I do with this form?

Thank you for taking the trouble to read this information sheet. If you wish to sign it and retain a copy for your own records, please do so below.

If you would like a copy of this form to be filed in your hospital records for future reference, please let us know.

I have read this information sheet and I accept the information it provides.

Signature.....

Date.....