



Circumcision

The removal of the foreskin of males

The foreskin is the loose tissue that covers the round tip (head) of the penis

How it's done: *Religious ceremonies are carried out in a ceremonial manner, this explanation describes the surgical procedure.* Baby is secured and strapped onto a board. The penis is cleaned and injected with anesthetic or topical anesthetic is applied. Using surgical clamps and/or a plastic device called a Plastibell; the foreskin is separated from the penis and cut away. [Click Here](#) to view a video of the procedure.

Why it's done: Judaism and Islam religions have religious reasons and ceremonies for carrying out circumcision. Some African and Australian Aborigines have cultural reasons for carrying out circumcisions. Here in the United States those without religious affiliations have various views on circumcision. Amongst the debate of circumcision, there is one unanimous agreement: *no major medical organization recommends universal circumcision for all infant males.* There is no medical indication to warrant circumcising all newborn males. For this reason, many health insurance companies will not pay for the procedure as it is considered cosmetic and parents are required to pay for the procedure themselves out of pocket should they desire to have their baby circumcised. If you are considering circumcision, check with your health insurance carrier regarding coverage as well as qualified providers as to costs involved.

When circumcision is medically necessary: There is a rare condition, called true Phimosis, which is when the foreskin cannot retract at all and leads to urinary retention as urine is unable to pass, if this should occur, circumcision may be necessary in order to resolve the issue.

When circumcision is contraindicated: When baby is sick or unstable in some way, circumcision should not be carried out. Also when there is a history of a risk such as a bleeding disorder.



Risks	Benefits
Infection	May decrease risk of Urinary Tract Infections (debated)
Hemorrhage or bleeding	May reduce risk of STD's (debated)
Pain during and after procedure	May provide prevention of penile and cervical cancers (debated)
Irritation of the glans	
Risk of injury to penis	

Risks and Benefits of Circumcision are listed above, please keep in mind that benefits listed are debated, but some believe to be true. The risks listed are not debated.

For more information on circumcision click these links below:

Kids Health, click [HERE](#) for information on care of circumcised penis and the procedure
 Mayo Clinic, click [HERE](#) for information on the care of an uncircumcised penis

Care of the Uncircumcised Penis

- Leave it alone.

Regular washing and rinsing (externally) with baths or between diaper changes is all that is required. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RETRACT FORESKIN!** Do not introduce Qtips or other items to clean inside. Leave it alone and use plain water. Remember, babies were created with a foreskin and their bodies know what to do with it. The foreskin will naturally begin to retract with erections, which occur from birth on. Most foreskins will retract by age 5, but sometimes a foreskin will not fully retract until adolescence. As long as your son can pass urine and is in no pain, everything is fine. When the foreskin is able to retract on its own, your son should be instructed to retract it during bathing and clean with mild soap and water on a regular basis.



Care of the Circumcised Penis

- Keep the area as clean as possible: clean with warm water, avoid wipes
- Petroleum jelly can be dabbed on the penis or front of diaper to ease potential discomfort from friction against the diaper
- Change bandage if necessary and as advised by provider
- It usually takes 7-10 days to heal, it may appear swollen and red and there may be a small amount of blood in the diaper

When to call provider:

- Persistent bleeding or blood in diaper (more than quarter-sized)
- Increasing redness
- Fever
- Signs of infection such as worsening swelling or discharge, pus-filled blisters, foul smelling discharge, etc.
- Baby not urinating as normal within 12 hours after the procedure

References

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