

CIRCUMCISION CARE

How do I care for my baby's penis after a circumcision?

Gently clean the area with water every day and whenever the diaper area becomes soiled. Some swelling of the penis is normal after a circumcision. A clear crust will probably form over the area. It normally takes 7 to 10 days for the penis to heal after a circumcision. After the circumcision, you may notice a small amount of blood on the baby's diaper. If the bloodstain is larger than the size of a quarter, call your doctor right away. In addition, you should call your doctor if a Plastibell device was used during the circumcision and the device doesn't fall off within 10 to 12 days. If there is a bandage on the penis instead of a Plastibell, the bandage should be changed each time you change your son's diaper. This will help prevent infection. Signs of infection also signal the need to call your doctor. These signs include a temperature of 100.4°F or higher, redness, swelling and/or a yellowish discharge.

When do I call my Healthcare Provider?

- If the wound does not stop bleeding.
- If your son does not have a wet diaper within 6 to 8 hours after the circumcision.
- If the redness and swelling around the tip of the penis does not go away or gets worse after 3 to 5 days.
- If there is a yellow discharge or coating around the tip of the penis after 7 days.
- If the Plastibell device does not fall off within 10 to 12 days.

How do I care for my baby's penis if I choose not to have him circumcised?

Simply keeping the penis clean with soap and water helps reduce the risk of problems or infections. In older boys and adult men, the foreskin slides back and forth over the penis, allowing the area underneath to be cleaned. The foreskin doesn't retract in boys for a few years. Don't try to force the foreskin to retract, because this can damage the penis and cause problems. When the foreskin is ready to retract, you can teach your son how to retract it himself and clean the skin underneath. He should wash his foreskin everyday while bathing.

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The information provided in this handout is a free service to the patients of Family Medicine Associates. Please consult with your Primary Care Physician for further explanation and questions.