

Circumcision Care: After the Procedure 2012

It is very important that you properly care for the penis in the first few days after your son's circumcision. The greatest post-operative risk – infection – can be minimized by consistent care and attention.

The following tips will help guarantee a safe and successful healing process.

What to Expect in the First Few Days:

- Red or purplish, swollen glans (the head of the penis) for the first 24 to 48 hours
- Gradual healing, with the penis appearing well-healed within 5 to 7 days
- Possible thin white films of tissue on the glans, representing normal healing
- Possible small spots of blood on the diaper or gauze in the first 24 to 48 hours

How to Care for the Penis:

- Allow the yellow, petroleum jelly-soaked gauze strip to stay on until it falls off. Remove it only if it becomes soiled with stool.
- Once it falls off or needs removed, fold in half a square of the provided 2-inch gauze, and coat it with petroleum jelly (such as Vaseline-brand). Wrap it around the glans.
- Change the gauze every diaper change for at least the first 24 hours, and up to 48 hours if the area still seems raw and sore.

Bathing:

- Sponge-bathing is okay in the first 48 hours after circumcision, but do not submerge the baby in bathwater.
- After 48 hours, you may submerge him in clean, non-soapy water, but do not attempt to scrub or use soap on the penis until it appears well-healed, by 5 to 7 days

Call the Office If:

- Active bleeding is noted, especially after the first 24 hours
- The redness fades, and then returns
- Red streaks appear on the shaft of the penis
- Green “pus” is noted on the penis
- An abnormal urinary stream (flow) is noted

Medications:

- Avoid putting any antibiotic ointment or cream on the healing circumcision
- Acetaminophen (e.g Tylenol™) is okay to use for pain if your baby is fussy and the usual cuddling and feeding responses are not helping.