



Care After Circumcision (in children)

How will my child look after circumcision?

After the circumcision, your child's penis may look red, swollen, and bruised after the dressing is removed. The skin may change in color. It may look red, yellow and/or crusty. As long as your child is not in much pain 3 days after the surgery it is normal for the penis to have these symptoms for up to a week.

Your child may have a small amount of bleeding at his surgical site. It is normal to see a few drops of blood on the diaper.

When should I call the doctor?

Check your child's penis when you arrive home. If the bleeding causes a large soaked spot in the diaper or underwear (like women's menstruation pads), call the hospital at the number listed below

Call us also if you see any of these signs and symptoms a few days after the surgery:

- Fever greater than 101.5°F by mouth or 100.5°F under the arm
- Pain that is not relieved with pain medication
- Increased bleeding from the surgical site
- Severe pain lasting longer than 3 days.

What is the number to call?

- During business hours: Monday-Friday between 8 am-5 pm contact Pediatric Urology at 734-936-7030 (Monday - Friday, 8 am 5 PM)
- On weekends, holidays, or after business hours call 734-936-6267 (hospital paging) and ask for the pediatric urology resident on-call

How can I manage my child's pain?

Your child may be uncomfortable for 2-3 days after the circumcision. Use the pain medication given on the day of the surgery. For mild pain, you may also give acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin) as needed. Follow the instructions on the label for the correct dosage.

What should I do with the bandage?

Your child may have a small dressing over his penis. If the dressing falls off, you do not need to replace it. Your surgeon will tell you when to remove the dressing. Unless otherwise instructed you can remove the dressing by soaking your son in a warm bath. Use clear water in the bath to keep the area clean.

- Do not use soap for 2-3 days after the procedure - it will cause burning.
- After the dressing is off, apply petroleum jelly (Vaseline) or any other clean gooey salve to the inside of your son's diaper so that his penis does not stick to the diaper. Do this for 7 days.
- To prevent adhesions (reattachments of the skin), it is important that you press on your baby's pre-pubic area (at the base of the penis between the belly and the penis) with your fingers. This will fully expose your baby's penis. Apply Vaseline around the circumcision site.
- You may need to continue doing this with each diaper change or after bathing until your child outgrows his baby fat pad.

Should I limit my child's activities?

- The child should use his car seat right away after the surgery
- They may not use straddle toys (walkers, bikes, jumper chairs, etc.) for two weeks
- They can go in a bath 2 days after surgery and a pool 1 week after surgery
- Return to school or daycare when comfortable after 3 days
- Do not resume gym class or sports for 2 weeks after surgery

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