

# Circumcision Care for Newborns

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## Care in the hospital

1. Immediately after the circumcision, a diaper with petroleum jelly (Vaseline) applied to the front will be placed on your baby. The petroleum jelly will protect the tip of the penis from burning when the baby urinates and also from drying and sticking to the diaper.
2. Your nurse will be checking on your baby for bleeding and pain. If you need help changing your baby or have any questions, please ask your nurse.
3. At first, the tip of the penis is swollen and bright red in color. Within one or two days, you will notice a decrease in the swelling and may see a yellow covering over the tip of the penis. This is normal new tissue growth.
4. Your baby may be given acetaminophen (Tylenol) after the circumcision for pain control with your permission.

## Care at home

1. After the initial two-hour period, you may diaper your baby normally, using about one tablespoon of petroleum jelly with every diaper change until the penis is healed. The healing will occur in three to four days. The healing is complete when the tip of the penis is pink like the rest of the skin.
2. For cleaning the entire penis for the first two to three days, pouring warm (not hot) water over it should be sufficient. After this time, if it is necessary, you may use a mild soap.

### **Call your baby's doctor:**

1. If the penis again becomes swollen and reddened and has a greenish- yellow, foul-smelling discharge, this could mean a possible infection. Should this occur, please contact your baby's doctor immediately.
2. It is normal to have some blood spots on the baby's diaper for the first couple of days. If you notice any active dripping of blood from the penis, call your baby's doctor immediately.
3. If your baby does not urinate once within 24 hours after the circumcision, please call your baby's doctor for further instructions.
4. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your baby's doctor.

### **How do I give my baby acetaminophen (Tylenol®) liquid?**

Your baby may need acetaminophen (brand name Tylenol®) liquid for pain after his circumcision. Please call your baby's doctor if you have any questions. You may give your baby one dose of acetaminophen at home. If you are worried that your baby requires another dose, please call your baby's doctor.

1. You can buy liquid children's acetaminophen at the drug store.



Buy the liquid acetaminophen labeled **160mg/5mL**.

2. If you are not sure which bottle of acetaminophen to buy, please talk with the pharmacist at the drug store.
3. The dose for your baby if he weighs more than 5 pounds 8 ounces is 1 mL of children's acetaminophen. Please call your baby's doctor if you think your baby requires more than one dose.

4. Prolonged use of any medication can be harmful. Overdose of acetaminophen can cause severe, even fatal, liver damage. Please talk to your baby's doctors with any questions.

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Reviewers: Maria Shakour Skoczylas, MD

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