

CIRCUMCISION

This leaflet gives information to parents/carers whose child is having a circumcision.

What is a circumcision?

A circumcision is an operation to remove the tip of the foreskin (the skin that covers the head of the penis). Your surgeon will have recommended your child has this done for a medical reason. If you are unsure why your child is having the procedure please ask your GP or contact your surgeons secretary.

The operation

The operation is performed under general anaesthetic; the tip of the foreskin is removed exposing the head of the penis. The wound is closed underneath the head of the penis using dissolvable stitches or glue. You may be able to see these stitches and they can take up to 10 weeks to dissolve completely. It is a good idea to put Vaseline around the stitches and the inside of the underclothes while the wound is healing.

Risks and Complications

The possible risks and complications for circumcision include:

- Bleeding, this is usually stopped with pressure
- Infection
- Narrowing of the urethra, this can be caused by an infection and can lead to your child having difficulty passing urine.
- Occasionally inability to pass urine immediately after surgery.

What to expect after surgery?

You will be advised on what pain relief your child can take after their operation. It is advisable to give this regularly for at least 48 hours. It is usual for the penis to look red and swollen for a few days. (And up to 2 weeks)

Let your child wear loose clothing – boxer shorts, pyjamas, or a tracksuit are usually more comfortable. Put lots of Vaseline around the wound, and inside the thighs and underclothes.

Your child is allowed a bath 2 days after surgery but do not use salt, bubble bath or talc. Encourage daily baths.

Your child may return to school when he feels comfortable, but no sport, bike riding or swimming until the wound is fully healed, about 3 weeks after surgery.

Useful contacts for further information:

If you have any queries prior to the procedure outlined and its implications to your child, please contact **Buxton ward on 01603 286321**.

If you should need any help or advice following your child's surgery you are advised to ring **The Children's Assessment Unit on 01603 289775** for the first 24 hours following surgery, and after this time please contact your own GP for advice.

Alternatively, if your child is due to come in to the **Day Procedure Unit** please contact **01603 286008** for any queries prior to admission. For help and advice following your child's surgery, contact the Day Procedure unit or if it is overnight, the Children's Assessment Unit on the number above. Please contact your GP if you have any concerns after this.

British Association of Paediatric Surgeons
35-43 Lincolns Fields
London
WC2A 3PE
TEL: 0207 9730308
www.baps.org.uk

