

Everything You Need to Know about Baby Circumcision



Paediatric & Neonatology Department

What is circumcision?

Circumcision probably isn't something you think about every day. That is, unless you're about to welcome a new baby boy into your family. Male circumcision is the surgical removal of the skin that covers the tip of the penis. This piece of skin is known as the foreskin. Most males who are circumcised have the procedure done when they're newborn babies.

What are the risks of the procedure itself?

To reassure you, circumcision is a very common procedure and complications are rare. But the risks may include:

- bleeding at the time of the procedure
- infection
- pain

What happens during the procedure?

The procedure usually takes between 10 and 20 minutes. An anaesthetic cream will be applied around the penis 30 to 45 minutes before the procedure. Your baby will be taken to a procedure room and placed on a special table with soft restraints for their arms and legs. Your sweet babe will likely be draped in warm towels and may be given a little sugar water on a pacifier for comfort, if you give your okay. A plastic ring will be placed in the glans (tip of the penis) and the foreskin will be removed.

Caring for your baby's surgical wound

Immediately following the circumcision, soft gauze coated in antibiotic will be loosely wrapped around the tip of the penis to keep it from sticking to your baby's diaper.

Continue changing your baby's diaper as frequently as needed! Reapply the ointment and a new loose gauze if needed with each diaper change.

Fasten the diaper loosely, and be gentle when holding your baby, so as not to put pressure on the healing penis.

Bathing baby after circumcision

It's totally fine to bathe your baby following circumcision. While the penis is healing, be gentle when placing your baby in and out of the tub, and don't scrub with soap or a washcloth.

Just rinsing with warm water will do. Once the penis is healed, you may wash it with soap and water.



What's the expected recovery time?

There will likely be some redness, swelling, and slight bleeding or oozing for a few days following circumcision but it's perfectly normal.

Most newborns recover fully from circumcision within 7–10 days. The ring should fall off within 5–7 days on its own.

Call your baby's doctor if the ring hasn't fallen off within two weeks.

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