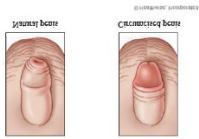


Before Your Child's Surgery



What is circumcision?

Circumcision is surgery to remove the skin that covers the head of the penis. This skin is called the foreskin.

Follow-up care is a key part of your child's treatment and safety. Be sure to make and go to all appointments, and call your doctor if your child is having problems. It's also a good idea to know your child's test results and keep a list of the medicines your child takes.

How do you prepare for surgery?

Surgery can be stressful for both your child and you. This information will help you understand what you can expect. And it will help you safely prepare for your child's surgery.



Preparing for surgery

- Talk to your child about the surgery. Tell your child that the surgery will remove the skin on the head of the penis. Hospitals know how to take care of children. The staff will do all they can to make it easier for your child.
- Plan for your child's recovery time. He or she may need more of your time right after the surgery, both for care and for comfort.
- Understand exactly what surgery is planned, along with the risks, benefits, and other options.
- Tell the doctor ALL the medicines and natural health products your child takes. Some may increase the risk of problems during the surgery. Your doctor will tell you if your child should stop taking any of them before the surgery and how soon to do it.

The day before surgery

- A nurse may call you (or you may need to call the hospital). This is to confirm the time and date of your child's surgery and answer any questions.
- Remember to follow your doctor's instructions about your child taking or stopping medicines before surgery. This includes over-the-counter medicines.

What happens on the day of surgery?

- Follow the instructions exactly about when your child should stop eating and drinking. If you don't, the surgery may be cancelled. If the doctor told you to have your child take any medicines on the day of surgery, have your child take them with only a sip of water.
- Have your child take a bath or shower before you come in. Do not apply lotion or deodorant.
- Your child may brush their teeth. But tell your child not to swallow any toothpaste or water.
- Do not let your child wear contact lenses. Bring your child's glasses or contact lens case.
- Be sure your child has something that's a reminder of home. A special stuffed animal, toy, or blanket may be comforting. For an older child, it might be a book or music.

At the hospital

- A parent or legal guardian must accompany your child.
- Your child will be kept comfortable and safe by an anesthesia provider. Your child will be asleep during the surgery.
- After surgery, your child will be taken to the recovery room. As your child wakes up, the recovery room staff will monitor your child's condition. The doctor will talk to you about the surgery.

When should you call your doctor?



- You have questions or concerns.
- You don't understand how to prepare your child for the surgery.
- Your child becomes ill before the surgery (such as fever, influenza (flu), or a cold).
- You need to reschedule or have changed your mind about your child having the surgery.

Your Child's Recovery

If your child wears diapers, use petroleum jelly with each diaper change. Fasten the diapers loosely. If your child wears underpants, make sure that the pants aren't rubbing on the penis.

This care sheet gives you a general idea about how long it will take for your child to recover. But each child recovers at a different pace. Follow the steps below to help your child get better as quickly as possible.

How can you care for your child at home?



Activity

- Have your child avoid doing any tumbling for a few days. Have your child avoid doing straddling activities, such as riding a tricycle or using a sit-on toy, for 3 to 4 weeks.
- Your child may shower or have a sponge bath 24 hours after surgery. Ask your doctor when it is okay for your child to swim or take a bath.



Diet

- Have your child drink plenty of fluids for the first 24 hours to avoid becoming dehydrated. Use clear fluids, such as water, apple juice, and flavoured ice pops.
- You may notice a change in your child's bowel habits right after surgery.



Medicines

- Your doctor will tell you if and when your child can restart any medicines. The doctor will also give you instructions about your child taking any new medicines.
- Have your child take medicines exactly as prescribed. Call your doctor if you think your child is having a problem with a medicine.
- If the doctor gave your child a prescription medicine for pain, see that your child takes it as prescribed.
- If your doctor prescribed antibiotics, be sure your child takes them as directed. Your child should not stop taking them just because he feels better. Your child needs to take the full course of antibiotics.



Incision care

If your doctor told you how to care for your child's incision, follow your doctor's instructions. If you did not get instructions, follow this general advice:

- Always wash your hands before touching the incision area.
- Wash the area daily with warm water and pat it dry. Don't use hydrogen peroxide or alcohol, which can slow healing. You may cover the area with a thin layer of petroleum

jelly, such as Vaseline, and gauze bandage if it weeps or rubs against clothing. Change the bandage every day.

- Keep the area clean and dry.

How you may feel after your operation

- You may feel nauseated, light headed dizzy or sleepy for up to 24 hours after your surgery
- You may have a slight temperature for 2 days
- You may feel tired for a few days after your surgery

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Follow-up care is a key part of your child's treatment and safety. Be sure to make and go to all appointments, and call your doctor if your child is having problems. It's also a good idea to know your child's test results and keep a list of the medicines your child takes.

When should you call for help?



Call 911 anytime you think your child may need emergency care. For example, call if:

- Your child passes out (loses consciousness).
- Your child has severe trouble breathing.

Call your doctor or seek immediate medical care if:

- Your child has a fever.
- Your child has loose stitches, or his incision comes open.
- You find a spot of bleeding that won't stop
- Your child has signs of infection, such as red streaks or pus from his incision.