

Outpatient Circumcision for Your Infant

If your infant son was not circumcised in the hospital after he was born, and you would like to have this procedure done, talk with his doctor about setting up an appointment.

Feeding your baby before the circumcision

- If you are breastfeeding, you may nurse your baby until the time of the circumcision.
- If you are using formula to feed your baby, do not feed him for one hour before the circumcision is scheduled.

What to expect at the appointment

- At the appointment, the doctor will first examine your baby and decide whether the circumcision can be done in an outpatient setting. The doctor may feel it is not possible to circumcise your baby safely at that time. Then you may need to schedule an appointment for another day with a specialist in Urology to have the circumcision done in surgery.
- If the circumcision can be done that day, it usually takes about 30 to 60 minutes.
- Following the circumcision, your baby will be brought to you. You will need to stay at the hospital or clinic for one hour. You may hold, comfort and feed your baby during this time.
- While you are waiting, a nurse will check your son's circumcision site about every 15 minutes.
- Before you leave, a nurse will show you how to care for the circumcision area when you go home.

Care for your son after circumcision

Your baby's nurse will give you petroleum jelly to take home. Put a dab of petroleum jelly the size of a quarter on the circumcision site each time you change your baby's diaper. The petroleum jelly keeps the diaper from sticking to the circumcision site while the penis heals. Do this until your baby's circumcision site is completely healed which is usually in 7 to 10 days. If a scab forms, let it heal and fall off on its own. Do not pull the scab off.

After your baby's circumcision, the circumcision area will look red, raw and swollen. It is normal for the penis to have a yellow coating around the circumcision site after the second or third day. This coating will go away on its own. You do not need to wash it off.

Helping your baby with discomfort

Your baby may have some discomfort after the circumcision. Talk to your baby's health care provider about what you may do to help with pain. Holding, feeding, swaddling and using pacifiers usually offer enough help.

Bathing your baby

After the circumcision, clean your baby's diaper area as you usually do. You can use warm water and soap, if needed. Otherwise, just water and baby wipes are fine for you to use. You may put your baby in water to bathe him.

When to call your son's health care provider

Call your baby's health care provider if your son:

- Develops a rectal temperature greater than 100.4 degrees F (38 degree C) or an armpit (axillary) temperature greater than 101.4 degrees F (38.5 degree C).
- Shows more pain, swelling, redness or drainage from the circumcision site.
- Has blood in his diaper from the circumcision site that is larger than the size of a half-dollar coin.
- Has not had a wet diaper within 24 hours of the circumcision.
- Continues to have a yellow coating on his penis for more than 10 days.

This material is for your education and information only. This content does not replace medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. New medical research may change this information. If you have questions about a medical condition, always talk with your health care provider.