

Circumcision Procedure - A Guide For Parents

Pre-operative advice

The baby will be assessed by the doctor beforehand to make sure it is safe to perform the procedure. Ideally, the baby should not have any vaccinations in the week before or after the planned procedure. Please give the baby the correct dose of Paracetamol 2 hours beforehand, to help the baby tolerate any discomfort (please note that Paracetamol is not licensed under 3 months of age). Please bring a spare nappy to put the baby in once the circumcision is completed.

Please avoid feeding the baby prior to procedure, to avoid vomiting. Do bring a dummy/pacifier as this will help the baby settle.

The doctor will explain the procedure, advising of possible risks, and written consent will be obtained.

The Procedure

The area is cleaned before the procedure. A local anaesthetic injection is then administered. This does cause some discomfort, but then should allow the rest of the procedure to be carried out with less distress. Any adhesions between the foreskin and glans are freed, and then an appropriately sized Plastibell is applied. This is held in place by a surgical knot. The residual foreskin is then cut away, leaving a clean finish, with the Plastibell sitting just behind the glans.

Finally, the area is cleaned, and vaseline applied. The whole procedure (excluding consent) takes about 20 minutes.

Post-operative advice

The baby will need to remain behind for up to 1 hour to make sure there are no problems after the procedure.

We request you not to touch the wound area, as this may introduce infection, cause more trauma and more pain.

You may apply vaseline to the front part of the nappy, to prevent the nappy sticking to the wound site.

The Plastibell should fall off within 5-10 days.

Early Complications

It is important to understand that in spite of all precautions, complications can still happen.

Early complications include the risk of bleeding after the procedure. This may stop spontaneously, or may require a little pressure. Rarely, the blood flow may necessitate referral to hospital.

Very rarely, there may be a problem with the baby being able to pass urine. This may be because the Plastibell squeezes the tube inside the penis. If this happens, you should contact the doctor immediately, or go to casualty.

Some swelling around the operation site is likely to occur afterwards. This should resolve over the next few days.

Late complications

There is a small risk of infection, which may cause some discharge or smell around the wound area.

If this happens you will need to contact the doctor.

Alternatively, it may slip down the shaft - if this happens you must contact the doctor.

Sometimes the Plastibell may not fall off after 10 days. If it remains after 10 days please contact the doctor.