

A Parents Guide to

CIRCUMCISION

Circumcision – The Basics

Circumcision is a surgical procedure to remove the foreskin from the head of the penis. Elective circumcision is performed in about 65% of newborn boys in the U.S.

What Parents Should Know — Pre-Operatively

- Being circumcised provides little medical benefit when compared to foreskin that becomes retractable over time and is kept clean.
- Circumcision of the “normal” penis carries a small risk of infection/bleeding in 1 in 1,000 babies. Nearly all risks are minor; The need for an additional procedure to correct minor cosmetic issues occurs in 3/100 cases performed electively.
- For newborns, circumcision is performed under a local nerve block to minimize discomfort.
- Circumcision *may* decrease incidences of urinary tract infection and *may* offer protection against penile cancer.

The Plastibell Circumcision — About This Technique

- Under sterile conditions, the skin of the penis is numbed with injected medication.
- The skin covering the penis is gently pulled back to expose the entire head of the penis.
- The correct sized Plastibell ring is placed and the excess skin is trimmed. The skin that overlaps the ring

will turn dark like the umbilical cord before the ring falls off at 7-14 days. The end of the penis will likely get red, then develop a yellow discharge, and finally scab over like a “skinned knee.” This is the normal healing process and will progress over the 7-14 days that the Plastibell ring stays on.

- After the procedure, your child is returned to your arms after the application of an ointment to the end of the penis to protect this sensitive area from injury and infection.

Plastibell Circumcision — Post-Surgical Care

- Ointment will protect the area while it heals and application is recommended 2-3 times per day for the first 30 days after the circumcision.
- Keep the area dry. Only give your son sponge baths until the ring falls off. If your child’s penis becomes soiled before the ring separates, simply rinse off the area, pat it dry and then resume care.
- Signs of infection are white/green drainage and redness extending from the shaft of the penis onto the belly wall. **Immediately bring these signs to your pediatrician’s attention!**
- Tylenol may be given for discomfort every 4-6 hours.
- Call the Chesapeake Urology For Kids office at **443-738-8180** with any concerns or questions.
- Follow-up is with your pediatrician and is incorporated into your routine visits in his or her office, unless otherwise specified.

To learn more about circumcision, visit forkids.chesapeakeurology.com or contact Chesapeake Urology For Kids at 443-738-8180.

