

Care of a child following Circumcision – advice for Parents/Carers/Guardians

What is Circumcision?

Circumcision is an operation to remove the outer skin (foreskin) from the tip of the penis. The outer layer of skin is trimmed back and the cut edges are stitched together with a small number of dissolvable stitches. These do not need to be removed and should dissolve and disappear within one to two weeks. A small temporary dressing is applied at the end of the operation which is taken off before you go home. In the first few hours there may be a little bleeding from the wound. If heavier bleeding occurs once you have gone home, or you are concerned please contact the hospital, Paediatric Community Nurse or your GP. The operation does not involve the tube which carries urine so your son should be able to pass urine without difficulty.

Your child will be discharged from hospital when medical and nursing staff are satisfied that he has recovered sufficiently from the anaesthetic.

When you get home, your child may still be sleepy and should be given the chance to rest quietly. It is important that your child does not do anything strenuous on the day of the operation.

Pain

Paracetamol such as Calpol® appropriate to the age of your child and/or ibuprofen may need to be given regularly according to manufacturer's instructions, until pain free. This may take a few days. Additional pain killing medicines may be supplied by the hospital and should be taken as directed on the packet. A local anaesthetic block may be used to numb the area of the operation – this will be explained by the anaesthetist.

Your child may be reluctant to pass urine in the beginning, so it is advisable to encourage him to drink plenty of clear fluids and have his pain killing medicines. If your child does not pass urine on the day of the operation it may be necessary to stay in hospital overnight. This will be decided by the surgeon. If your child is allowed home but does not pass urine within 24 hours of the operation, please contact the ward.

Clothing

Your child should wear whatever is most comfortable or nothing at all. Tight pants or nappies are not advisable.

Eating and drinking

Your child may eat anything but it is advisable to avoid fizzy drinks after the operation.

Wound healing/hygiene

Although looking fairly tidy at first, the wound looks at its worst about four to five days after the operation when it may look swollen, red or 'scabby'. This is normal and will pass, the scab gradually coming off after about 10 days. Slowly the 'lumpy' look will settle but there may still be knots from the stitches beneath the skin which may take several months to vanish completely.

Your son should have a bath or shower as soon as he is able to, in the first few days after the operation

Exercise/activity/return to school or nursery

Your son may return to nursery or school when comfortable. Try to discourage any strenuous activity or sport for about two weeks in order to allow the wound to heal.

Further information

Conquest Hospital - Kipling Ward Tel: 0300 131 4558
Eastbourne DGH - Friston SSPAU Tel: (01323) 414946
Paediatric Community Nurses, own GP or Practice Nurse.
If unable to contact any of the above phone NHS 111.

Important information

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: 0300 131 4731 or by email at: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Hand hygiene

The Trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: 0300 131 4500 Email: esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

Your Child's Anaesthetic - Royal College of Anaesthetists and Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists.

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:
Mr Roger Plail, Consultant Urologist. Elizabeth Vaughan, Matron, Friston.

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Responsible clinician: Caroline Stephenson, Practice Educator
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