Foreskin Problems

This is information about problems that may occur if you were not circumcised. Keeping the penis and foreskin clean is very important. The types of problems that may require medical attention include:

- **Balanitis** - This is an infection of the head of the penis from yeast, viruses, or bacteria. A red rash, swelling, and pain may develop. The treatment may include:
  - Sitz baths.
  - Medicine you put on the skin (*topical*).
  - Medicine you take by mouth (oral).
- **Phimosis** - This occurs when the foreskin cannot be pulled back off the head of the penis. This can develop with a balanitis infection.
- **Paraphimosis** - This happens when a tight foreskin is pulled back off the head of the penis and becomes stuck. This can cause pain, swelling, and reduce the blood flow and injure the head of the penis.

Phimosis and paraphimosis can be prevented by good hygiene. Retract the foreskin and wash around the head of the penis whenever you take a shower or bath. You should also replace the foreskin after it is retracted. **Paraphimosis is a true emergency and requires immediate medical attention to get the foreskin back over the end of the penis**, and circumcision may be needed to prevent future problems.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You are unable to urinate.
- Have severe swelling or pain.

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