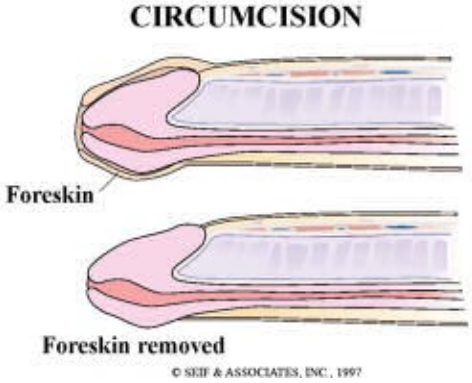
Circumcision, Newborn
Care After

A circumcision is an operation that removes the *foreskin* of the penis. The foreskin is the fold of skin covering the tip of the penis. Your baby should pee (*urinate*) as he usually does. It is normal if the penis:

- Looks red or puffy (*swollen*) for the first day or two.
- Has spots of blood and/or a yellow crust at the tip.
- Has bluish color (*bruises*) where numbing medicine may have been used.



HOME CARE

- Do not put any pressure on his penis.
- Feed your baby like normal.
- Check his diaper every 2 - 3 hours. Change it right away if it is wet or dirty. Put it on loosely.
- Lie the baby on his back.
- Give your baby medicine only as directed by the doctor.
- Wash the penis gently.
  - Wash your hands first.
  - Take off the old piece of gauze with each diaper change. If the gauze sticks, gently pour warm **(not hot)** water over the penis and gauze until the gauze comes loose.
  - Clean the area by gently blotting with a soft cloth or cotton ball and dry it. **Do not give your baby a tub bath until his umbilical cord has fallen off.**
  - Put a lot of petroleum jelly on the new gauze. Then wrap the gauze around the circumcision site. This keeps the baby's penis from sticking to the diaper.
  - **Do not** put any powder, ointment, alcohol or baby wipes on the baby's penis for one week.
  - Wash your hands after every diaper change.
  - Keep cleaning the penis and using petroleum jelly for 4 - 5 days.
- If a Plastibell® circumcision was done:
  - Gently wash and dry the penis as above.
  - You do not need to put on petroleum jelly.
  - The Plastibell® will drop off on its own after 5 - 8 days.
- If the Gomco® method was used:
  - There may be some blood stains on the gauze.
  - There should not be any active bleeding.
  - The gauze can be removed 24 hours after the procedure. When this is done, there may be a little bleeding, but this should stop with gentle pressure.
  - After the gauze has been removed, wash the penis gently with a soft cloth or cotton ball and dry it. You may apply petroleum jelly to his penis several times a day when changing his diaper, until well healed.

GET HELP IF:

- Your baby is older than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 100.5° F (38.1° C) or higher for more than 1 day.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- **Your baby is 3 months or younger with a rectal temperature of 100.4 ° F (38° C) or higher.**

- Your baby is older than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 102º F (38.9º C) or higher.
- There is a lot of bleeding (blood soaking the gauze).
- There is a bad smell or drainage from the penis.
- There is more redness or swelling than expected.
- The skin of the penis is not healing well in 7-10 days.
- Your baby is unable to pee.
- The Plastibell® has not fallen off in 8 days.

Easy-to-Read style based on content from Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas, Texas

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