

Circumcision

What is a circumcision

A circumcision is a 20 to 30 minute surgical procedure to remove the foreskin from a penis.

What to expect after a circumcision

Pain: after a circumcision, it is normal to have pain at the site of the operation and painkillers can be prescribed to assist with pain management during the recovery process. It is suggested to avoid wearing underpants for a period of time following surgery to avoid chafing.

Wound care: a wrap-around dressing is usually applied to the penis. If, as often happens, the bandage falls off after surgery, this is not a major concern. If it hasn't fallen off by the second day after surgery the bandage should be removed. The stitches will disappear within a short space of time. It is not recommended to put different ointments and dressing on the wound if it is not prescribed by the treating doctor.



Circumcision cont



Wound care cont: washing of the wound with soap and clean water is recommended unless the treating doctor has prescribed something specific. Sponge baths are fine but it is best to avoid full-body bathing until the second day post-surgery. After this time bathing and showering can be resumed as normal but the incision site should not be scrubbed. It is best to just let soapy water run over the incision and then pat dry.

When is it necessary to call the doctor after a circumcision

If any of the following are experienced:

- **bleeding from the surgical site.** If you notice oozing it may be helpful to apply gentle pressure with a piece of gauze;
- signs and symptoms of **infection** such as fever or a foul-smelling, thick, yellow or green discharge from the surgical site.

The treating doctor will recommend a follow-up visit if necessary.

Reference/s: Healthplus24 team 2012. Fact important to know about circumcision. [Online.] Available from: <http://www.healthplus24.com/kids-health/circumcision.aspx> [Accessed 21 February 2013].

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