

USEFUL INFORMATION

If there are any agencies or contacts that you have found helpful you may find it useful to write down details below:

ANY PROBLEMS PLEASE CONTACT THE WARD
TELEPHONE NUMBER 0191 5699763 (WARD F63)

We hope you have found this booklet useful during your hospital stay.

Useful websites

www.nhs.uk

www.sunderland.nhs.uk/chs

This information was correct at the time of printing. While the Trust makes every reasonable effort to keep its information leaflets up to date, very recent changes may not yet be reflected in the guidance and you should discuss this with the clinical staff at the time of your appointment.

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CIRCUMCISION

PATIENT AND CARER INFORMATION LEAFLET



Directorate of Paediatrics and Child Health

Sunderland Royal Hospital

Direct Line: - 0191 5699763

Your child will have had some form of pain relief during his operation. If your child complains of pain afterwards he may be given either Paracetamol or Ibuprofen on the ward by the nursing staff. It is advisable to continue giving this pain relief to your child for the first few days if he still feels sore after discharge.

Your child may have some swelling or very slight bleeding in the first week. There will be some crusting around the operation site but please do not pick this off as this may cause bleeding or infection.

The operation area will look worse before you see any improvement, the area may appear more red and swollen, this is normal and will improve over time.

Your child may spray urine on passing water this will settle in time.

If your child is frightened to have a wee after the local anaesthetic wears off, a warm bath may help this if not please contact the hospital.

All stitches will dissolve but this can take a few weeks to happen.

It is not necessary for your child to have a routine follow up appointment or a wound check.

You may need to contact your GP if any of the following occur:

- Any prolonged bleeding
- Any discharge i.e. pus
- Pain not controlled by your medication

What is a circumcision?

A circumcision is the surgical removal of the sleeve of skin and mucosal tissue that normally covers the glans (head of the penis). This double layer, sometimes called the prepuce, is more commonly known as the foreskin.

30,000 circumcisions are performed in England each year. Although circumcision is carried out more often on babies and young children it can be performed on males at any age.

Reasons why they are performed

The foreskin is usually stuck to the head of the penis at birth, but it gradually separates and can often be pulled back by the age of three. Your surgeon may recommend a circumcision for reasons including:

- If the foreskin is damaged or infected, it may be too tight to be pulled forward over the head of the penis so circumcision may be recommended to remove it.
- If the foreskin is naturally tight or has become scarred from infection it may get stuck and cannot be pulled back over the head of the penis.

As well as medical reasons, circumcisions may be performed for religious reasons but these are generally done at birth or after the child has reached the age of two.

What happens before the operation?

It is important you follow the written instructions on the admissions letter about how to prepare your child for surgery. This includes the times after which they should not eat and drink. To ensure your child's safety the operation may be cancelled if he or she is not fully prepared or had anything to eat or drink.

On admission your child will be asked to change into a theatre gown and a name bracelet should be worn.

A ward nurse will take your child to theatre and wait with you until the anaesthetic nurse comes, you will be able to accompany them into the anaesthetic room until your child goes to sleep. You will then be asked to leave the theatre and wait on the ward until your child is ready to be returned from theatre.

What does the operation involve?

Your child will be given a general anaesthetic and will be asleep during the operation. The surgeon will gently pull, the foreskin forward and trim away the skin. The edges are then closed using dissolvable stitches and/or surgical glue.

Are there any risks?

There are very few risks related to this operation, but as with any operation there is a small risk from the general anaesthetic.

What happens afterwards?

After the operation your child may feel some tenderness and have bruising.

General information

Hygiene

Your child may have a bath the day following his operation. Any dressing left on should be soaked off at this point. Please do not add any bubbles etc to the bath water for two weeks as this may irritate the skin.

School

Your child may return to school one week after his operation.

Physical education

Your child may return to normal activities e.g. riding bikes, football swimming etc. and P.E. at school three weeks after his operation.

Clothing

Please put loose clothing e.g. boxer shorts on your child for the first few weeks after his operation. If he wears nappies you will need to change these more frequently than normal.