

## CIRCUMCISION

Circumcision involves the surgical cutting of the foreskin from the penis. A plastic bell device is used to secure the foreskin and create a neat surgical cut edge with the blood vessels tied with a ligature. This device remains in place after the procedure and should spontaneously fall off by 7 days (similar to baby's cord clamp).

Circumcision is an elective procedure for which the main indication is parental request. The main medical benefit is the prevention of possible infection later in life.

To ensure that the procedure is as painless as possible, **anaesthetic cream** should be applied to the foreskin **one hour before**. The entire tube of anaesthetic cream should be applied to the foreskin, shaft of penis, and the skin of the suprapubic area of the lower abdomen for about 1cm. At the same time some **Paracetamol drops** should also be given by mouth (0.8ml of 100mg/ml solution). Both these medications are available over the counter from the chemist.

The procedure takes about 20 minutes to perform. A nerve block is given that usually lasts 4 hours. Baby usually settles with a breast or bottle feed. Please bring with you a spare nappy, a bottle (if bottle feeding) and a dummy (if you have one). Some further paracetamol may help 4 & 8 hours afterwards.

Take the dressing off the following midday. In the evening commence applying the antibiotic ointment twice daily for 7 days. Light bleeding will occur for approximately 5 days.

Complications are unusual and include infection, bleeding, and in the long term failure to achieve a perfect cosmetic result. Slight asymmetry usually resolves by 6 months of age.

Please seek medical assistance if there is:

- heavy bleeding into the nappy over 1 hour
- unusual swelling or skin discolouration
- urination is painful or has a reduced flow
- healing does not proceed normally
- the plastic bell has not fallen off by 7 days

The cost of the procedure is \$795. You may claim partial reimbursement from medicare.

Procedure Date: \_ \_ / \_ \_ / \_ \_ Time: .....



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