

Caring for your child after circumcision

What can I expect after surgery?

- The end of your child's penis will look red and swollen at first. This should get a little better with each passing day. You may also notice a yellowish covering over the glans. This is not a sign of infection – it is part of healing. It will clear on its own after several days.
- Your child may have mild to moderate pain, that is relieved with pain medication. If your son is too young to speak, he may cry, or be fussy and irritable when he is uncomfortable.

How can I help my son feel more comfortable?

- To relieve pain, give him children's pain medication such as acetaminophen (Tylenol® or Tempra®). Follow the directions on the package for his age and weight.
- If your child is a newborn, please ask your doctor or nurse practitioner for specific instructions about giving acetaminophen.

How do I take care of the incision?

- The incision is closed with stitches, which dissolve and do not need to be removed.
- For the first week after surgery, keep the penis and dressing as clean as possible. Clean the around the penis with water at least once a day. You may use mild soap if needed the day after surgery. Remember to gently pat dry with a clean towel. Do not use "baby wipes" on the incision.
- Your surgeon may tell you to apply Polysporin® ointment to the penis 3 times a day for 7 to 10 days.
- Follow the doctor's instructions on when to remove the dressing. Remove the dressing on _____(date).
- Your son should wash his hands with soap and water (or use an alcohol hand sanitizer) before and after using the bathroom.
- If your son is in diapers, apply Vaseline to the diaper each time you change it. Change diapers often during the next week. Wash your hands with soap and water (or use an alcohol hand sanitizer) before and after each diaper change.
- Your son may have a short bath or shower in 2 or 3 days.

What activity can he do?

- Your son can return to most daily activities as soon as he feels able.
- For 1 to 2 weeks your child should avoid:
 - swimming
 - activities that would get the incision dirty, such as playing in a sand box
 - rough or vigorous activities
 - using toys that require him to straddle or ride

When does my son need to visit the clinic?

- You will be told if your son needs a follow-up appointment.

When should I get medical help?

Call the hospital if you notice any of the following:

- Increasing or severe pain that is not relieved with pain medication.
- Continuous nausea or vomiting (unable to eat or drink as usual).
- Increasing redness or swelling of the penis.
- Continuous bright red bleeding from the incision.
- Fever, a temperature above 38°C (100.5°F)
- Difficulty passing urine (peeing, voiding). No wet diaper in more than 6 hours for babies.
- Pus or discharge from incision.

How do I contact Pediatric Urology?

During business hours (Monday to Friday), call McMaster Children's Hospital at 905-521-2100:

- 2G Pediatric Urology Clinic – ext. 78517 (for appointment information only)
- Natasha Brownrigg, Pediatric Urology Nurse Practitioner – ext. 73070
- Pediatric Urology Office – ext. 73777

For urgent issues after hours and on weekends, call Paging at 905-521-5030:

- Ask them to page the Pediatric Urologist on call.

If your child is unwell and needs immediate attention:

- Bring your child to the Emergency Department at McMaster Children's Hospital.
- If you live outside Hamilton, take your child to the nearest hospital emergency department.