

Caring for your baby after circumcision

What can I expect after surgery?

- The end of your baby's penis will look red and swollen at first. This should get a little better each 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 baby may have mild to moderate pain that may be relieved with medication. When he is uncomfortable, he may cry, or be fussy and irritable. The pain will get better as the circumcision heals.

How can I help my son feel more comfortable?

- To relieve pain, give him acetaminophen (such as Infants' Tylenol® Concentrated Drops). Follow the directions on the package for his age and weight, or these instructions from your doctor if your baby is less than 3 months old:

Start infant acetaminophen _____ (dose) at _____ (time).
Then, give a dose regularly, every 4 to 6 hours for 2 days.
Never give your child more than 5 doses in 24 hours.

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. **Use a wet cloth to clean around the penis if needed after a bowel movement.**
- Do not use baby wipes on the incision. Gently pat dry with a clean towel.
- Your surgeon may tell you to apply Polysporin® ointment to the penis after each diaper change for 7 to 10 days.
- Apply Polysporin® 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.
- Give your baby a sponge bath until _____ (date).
Then, he can have a short bath.

What activity can he do?

- For 1 to 2 weeks, your baby should not swim or do any activity that would get the incision dirty.

When does my son need to visit the clinic?

- Your son may need a follow-up appointment in about 1 week. Your doctor will tell you about this appointment.

When should I get medical help?

Call the hospital if you notice any of the following symptoms:

- 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)
- 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 baby is unwell and needs immediate attention:

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