

Circumcision

The purpose of this leaflet is to explain circumcision and post-operative advice.

Why is circumcision necessary?

A circumcision is necessary if the foreskin has become tight or has become damaged by scarring. This is a condition called **phimosis** and can be caused by recurrent infections or **balanitis** (BXO). Phimosis may lead to difficulty in passing urine and other problems in later life. It is normal for some children not to be able to retract the foreskin and, in the absence of other symptoms, this can be safely left alone; this is known as a physiological phimosis.

Risks

The most common risks associated with circumcision are bleeding and infection. **If there is any bleeding from your child's penis after the circumcision, please return him to your local emergency department immediately.** Rarely, he may have to go back to theatre.

Anaesthetic

Your child will be admitted into hospital for a day and will need a general anaesthetic for the procedure to be done. Anaesthetic drugs remain in the body for 24 hours or more and gradually wear off over this time. It is therefore important that your child remains with a responsible adult and will need to rest after discharge from hospital.

Post-operative advice

The dressing that has been used to cover your child's wound (tissue glue) will peel off on its own in 7 to 10 days after the operation. Please try to stop your child touching the area.

Your child can take a shower after 48 hours and have a bath after 5 days. Do not use bubble bath or other additives in the water.

Your child will probably find their own level of activity but, as a general guide, he should not attend school/nursery for a week and should avoid sports such as football, rugby, judo and swimming for 2-3 weeks after the operation.

Pain relief

Your child's penis will look sore and inflamed, and may be swollen and bruised for a few days after the operation. It is recommended that you give him regular pain relief, such as paracetamol (Calpol) every 4 to 6 hours for the first 24 hours and/or ibuprofen three times a day, after he is discharged from hospital.

Ointment

Chloramphenicol eye ointment will be prescribed to be applied to the penis twice daily for 7 days. Your child's nurse will explain how to apply the ointment, as well as give individual pain relief advice before you take him home. Wearing loose fitting pants and trousers will also aid his comfort.

Passing urine

Your child does not need to have passed urine before being allowed to go home. However, please encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids to help urination. The more concentrated his urine is, the more discomfort he will have when passing it.

If your child does not pass urine for 24 hours, please contact your GP for advice.

Useful contact details

East and North Hertfordshire Teaching NHS Trust:

- Website www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk
- Telephone 01438 314333

Bluebell Ward, Lister Hospital:

- Telephone 01438 284008

Leaflet information

You can request this information in a different format or another language; please speak to your doctor or nurse.

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