

Circumcision in Children

A circumcision involves the removal of the foreskin or prepuce and is nearly always performed under a general anaesthetic (i.e. asleep) in this age group. It is a routine procedure usually performed on a day case basis. This means that the child is admitted and discharged on the same day as the operation.

At the start of the procedure the penile skin is made numb with an injection of local anaesthetic around the base of the penis. This means that when the child wakes he will feel little or no discomfort. Any distress usually relates to disorientation and confusion rather than pain. The wound will, however, become sore once the anaesthetic wears off at home and you will be given painkillers which should be given regularly as prescribed. Your child may find that wearing loose underpants and trousers may aid their comfort.

About 48 hours after surgery you may bath or shower your child, allowing the water to soak off the wound dressing. Avoid the use of bubble baths and scented soaps. Dry your child's genital area carefully afterwards. There may be oozing from the wound site for a few days and you may need to reapply dressings obtained from the ward before discharge. Your child may pull these off, but if dressings are used, remember to thoroughly wash your hands immediately before handling the wound site / the clean dressings, and afterwards.

Help your child keep his penis free from urine as much as possible i.e. dab end with clean tissue paper after each time he urinates. If the ooze from the wound changes to a yellow/green colour with or without an offensive smell, and/or the wound site becomes very red and sore and this does not resolve within a few days, your child may have a wound infection. You should seek advice from your GP. You will notice the small stitches in the wound. These are dissolvable and do not need removing, however, they may take several weeks to disappear or fall out. Contact sports and swimming should be avoided for 2 weeks while the wound is healing.