

# NEWBORN CIRCUMCISION

## Keep the Penis Clean.

- If the penis has stool on it, gently wash with warm water during diaper changes.
- Use a soft washcloth.
- Let the skin air-dry.
- Change diapers often to help prevent infection.
- Keep the penis dry and clean.

**Note: To prevent infection, wash your hands before and after circumcision care.**

## Newborn Comfort Measures

- Do not use baby wipes that contain alcohol. They could create a stinging effect.
- Provide your baby with extra physical attention (cuddles) for at least a few hours after the circumcision.
- Allow extra time during breastfeeding. Your baby may have difficulty latching onto or staying on, the breast if he is experiencing discomfort. He may also want extra time at the breast because it is comforting to him.
- If you are bathing your baby after circumcision, do not use soap or other perfumed products on the wound as these can sting and also encourage infection.
- Use a paper towel inside the diaper if you have trouble telling when it is wet. Or use cloth diapers until you are sure he's urinating.

## Circumcision Referral:

**Postnatal Unit/NICU:** In case the doctor did not order a circumcision because the baby is less than 2 kg, or the baby is unwell.

**NICU:** If the baby is more than two months old, circumcision will not be completed; a referral will be arranged.

**Arrangement of Referral:** Referral will be given to the pediatric surgery department (at Sidra Medical or Al Wakra Hospital). The procedure is normally done within a few months of discharge and under general anesthesia.

**Nesma'ak (Call Center):** Nesma'ak will contact you or send an SMS listing your baby's circumcision appointment.

**Note: If the parent/family chooses to delay the circumcision, arrangements will be made after discharge.**

## When to Seek Medical Help:

- If there is bleeding that does not stop.
- If the baby does not pass urine within 12 to 24 hours after the circumcision.
- If there is thick yellow or green drainage from the penis.
- If the penis is swollen or red for more than two days after the circumcision.
- If the baby has a fever; a temperature that exceeds 37.5°C.
- If there is a foul smell or discharges from the penis.
- If the baby reached 2 years of age and the foreskin totally covers the penis during urination.

**Note: If the baby develops any of the above signs, take him to the nearest Pediatric Emergency Center (PEC).**



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# Newborn Circumcision

Newborn circumcision is a procedure that removes the skin that covers the tip of the penis, called the 'foreskin'.

## When is the Procedure Done?

The procedure is performed within 12 hours of birth. However, in the case of babies that are admitted into the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the pediatrician will order the circumcision within two months of birth, provided the baby's health is stable and he weighs at least 2kg.

## What are the Benefits of Circumcision?

- Religious benefits.
- Circumcised babies have lower rates of urinary tract infections.
- There is an associated decreased risk of penile cancer and cervical cancer is less common in the wife of circumcised men.

The baby's mother or father must sign a consent form in advance of the procedure.

If you have any history of bleeding, especially among males in the family, please inform the medical staff (nurses and doctors).

## Preparation Prior to the Procedure:

- Your baby will be seen and examined by a neonatologist in the postnatal unit. If the baby is well enough to be circumcised, the procedure will be performed by an obstetrician.
- Your baby should have voided at least once since birth.
- Your baby should not be breastfed or given formula at least one hour prior to the procedure; the nurse will advise when you should stop feeding the baby.

- The nurse will apply a cream (topical analgesic) around the penis, to reduce pain during the procedure.
- Topical anesthesia cream should be on the penis for 45 to 50 minutes prior to the procedure to achieve the analgesic effect.
- If your baby passes urine during the application of this cream, you should inform the nurse so the cream can be reapplied.



- Before taking the baby to the Circumcision Unit, your nurse will conduct the necessary administrative tasks, including checking the name and Health Card number of both mother and baby.



- Your baby will be transported via baby cot to the Circumcision Unit at the Women's Wellness and Research Center (WWRC).
- If your baby is in the NICU or in the nursery, a circumcision can still be performed, even if he is on antibiotic treatment.



## Care After Newborn Circumcision

- After the circumcision is complete, a gauze dressing is usually applied.
- You and your nurse should observe the baby for bleeding.
- The gauze will detach by itself (when the baby passes urine).
- If the gauze gets stuck on the penis, squeeze some warm water on it until it loosens.
- Do not pull the gauze off the wound as doing so may cause bleeding.

## What to Expect

- A bloody or yellowish coating may appear around the head of the penis. This is normal and should not be removed as it may cause bleeding.
- The penis may swell a little or bleed a little around the incision.
- The head of the penis might be slightly red or black and blue.
- Your baby may cry at first when he urinates or be fussy for the first couple of days following the circumcision.
- The circumcision site should heal in one to two weeks.