

Care of Newborn after Circumcision

Doctor Rosen's Patients

Definition/Explanation:

Circumcision is the removal of the foreskin around the tip of the penis.

Appearance:

After your child's circumcision, your child's penis may appear red and swollen and you might notice small amounts of bloody drainage for the first 24 hours.

For several days after the circumcision, the glans or head of the penis will be beefy red in color and the area immediately below the glans will be quite swollen. Small yellowish-white firm plaques or moist crusts may occur near the wound or glans during days 3-10. This plaque formation is normal and will eventually disappear. The plaque is not a sign of infection.

Bandage:

The penis will be covered with a Gelfoam dressing. This should gradually unravel and come off in 2 – 5 days, or it might disintegrate and fall off in tiny pieces. You do not have to place any dressing on top of the Gelfoam. If the Gelfoam dressing comes off, you could place a gauze pad with Neosporin ointment on the penis for the first 24 hours after the circumcision, but after that no dressing will be necessary.

Bathing:

Change your child's diaper frequently to avoid soilage of the penis. Traditionally, we recommend you not submerge your child into a bath until the umbilical cord has fallen off. Until that time, sponge bathe him with a damp washcloth and dry with a soft cloth. You can clean the circumcised penis by pouring warm water over it or using a squirt bottle.

Pain:

If he appears uncomfortable, acetaminophen every 4 hours may be given. For babies from 6 to 12 pounds the dose is 1/2 dropperful (0.4 ml) of Tylenol drops every four hours.

Foreskin:

As a rule, you should not have to pull back the foreskin from the head of the penis on a regular basis to prevent any skin bridges (adhesions) from forming.

Follow-up:

No appointment is routinely needed to check on the healing of the circumcision. You should call if you suspect healing is not progressing well.

When to call your Physician:

Increased bleeding or drainage from the penis .

If your child has not had a wet diaper (urinated) 24 hours after the procedure.

Signs of infection: Temperature above 101, foul-smelling, yellowish-green drainage from the penis, or increased tissue redness or swelling.

Alan H. Rosen, MD
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