

Circumcision

Discharge instructions for home

Circumcision is a surgery to remove the foreskin and uncover the head of the penis.

How do I care for the surgery site?

After surgery the incision area will look swollen and red. Within a few weeks, the area will return to normal.

- If recommended by your healthcare provider, apply petroleum ointment (like Vaseline) to the tip of the penis and around the PlastiBell ring (if one is used) with each diaper change, or after your child uses the toilet, for 12 days.
- If bleeding occurs, apply constant, gentle pressure with a gauze pad to the penis for 5 minutes.
- Sponge bathe only for the first 24 hours, then resume regular bathing. Your surgeon may have additional instructions on dressing or bathing your child.

How much activity can my child do?

- Watch your child closely today. Most children can go back to normal activity in 24 hours.

Will my child have pain?

- After surgery, your child will likely feel pain on his penis. We partner with you and your child to relieve pain as completely as possible. No matter the level of your child's pain, believe they are hurting and respond right away.
- The pain will get better as time passes, usually after the first day for most children.
- Effective pain control will help your child feel better and heal faster. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and/or ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) are common medicines to treat pain. Check with your healthcare provider first before giving any type of medicine to your child.
- For more information about pain, read our handout "Acute Pain" (www.seattlechildrens.org/pdf/PE503.pdf).

When should the ring fall off?

If a PlastiBell ring is used, it should fall off after five days. If the ring falls off **before** 5 days, call us to schedule an appointment. If the ring does not fall off **after** 10 days, call us to schedule an appointment.

To Learn More

- Urology
206-987-2509
- Ask your child's nurse or doctor
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

When should I call a doctor?

If your child is having any problems, call our office at 206-987-2509 during the day. After hours call 206-987-2000 and ask the hospital operator for Urology.

- Call us if your child has any of these warning signs:
- Fever higher than 101.5° F (38.6° C)
- Redness and swelling that spreads up into the stomach area
- Bleeding that cannot be stopped after five minutes of pressure has been applied
- Your child has pain not controlled by the medicine prescribed