About the Procedure

Circumcision is a surgery to remove the foreskin, a flap of skin that covers the end of the penis.

Are there benefits to circumcision?

Scientific studies show there are some health benefits of circumcision. Still, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) does not recommend that all boys be circumcised. Since circumcision is not essential to a child’s health, parents should choose what is best for their child. Some parents may choose to have their son circumcised for religious, social, or cultural reasons.
What are the risks or complications of circumcision?

As with any surgery, circumcision has some risks. Complications are usually minor but may include bleeding, infection, reaction to anesthetic, poor cosmetic outcome, and narrowing of the opening of the urethra. Further surgery may be needed, but only in rare cases. Proper care after circumcision helps reduce the chance that there will be problems.

How is the procedure done?

The circumcision is done in a safe, comfortable, and sterile environment that has been specially set up for the procedure.

First, the foreskin is loosened from the end of the penis. Next, the doctor will cut the foreskin with a device designed to ensure an even cut. Blood vessels will be clamped to prevent bleeding with a device called a Gomco clamp. The entire process, including time to prepare, usually takes about 30 minutes.

Will my son feel pain?

Parents often worry that their baby will have pain during the circumcision. We do a number of things to comfort your son and reduce the pain:

• Give him a sugar solution to suck on.
• Numb his penis with a shot of medicine.
• Provide a calm setting.

After the procedure

Your baby may fuss or cry after the circumcision. Close cuddling and breastfeeding can help comfort him. We will ask you to stay in the clinic area for 1 hour after the procedure.

Before you go home, we will check your baby’s circumcision, and we will go over care instructions with you. A circumcision heals within 5 to 10 days.

How do I care for my son’s penis after circumcision?

• At first, the head of the penis may look very red and raw.
• Some swelling of the penis is normal after circumcision.
Questions?

Call 206-598-4070

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help at any time.

Maternity and Infant Center Clinic: 206-598-4070

• There may be a small amount of blood at first, or yellow-colored drainage later. Both are part of normal healing.
• Gently clean the area with water every day and whenever your baby has a dirty diaper.
• Petroleum jelly was applied to the penis. It should be applied again with each diaper change for the first 24 hours.

When should I call my baby’s doctor?

Call your baby’s doctor right away if:
• Your baby has a temperature of 100.4°F or higher.
• The penis continues to bleed and there is a bloodstain larger than the size of a quarter.
• Your baby does not have a wet diaper within 8 hours after the procedure.
• A pus-like discharge or foul smell is coming from the wound.
• Your baby is acting sick.
• Redness and swelling around the tip of the penis seem to be getting worse after 3 to 5 days.

Follow-up care

Most babies do not need follow-up care. Most heal quickly without complications. If follow-up care is needed, call your baby’s primary care provider. If you have any questions about the circumcision after it has been done, please call the Newborn Circumcision Clinic at 206-598-4070, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Thank you for choosing University of Washington Medical Center Newborn Circumcision Clinic for your baby’s procedure.