

# Male Circumcision

A circumcision is the removal of the piece of skin, called the foreskin, from around the end of the penis, called the glans. This is an elective procedure or surgery, which means you decide if you want to have it done.

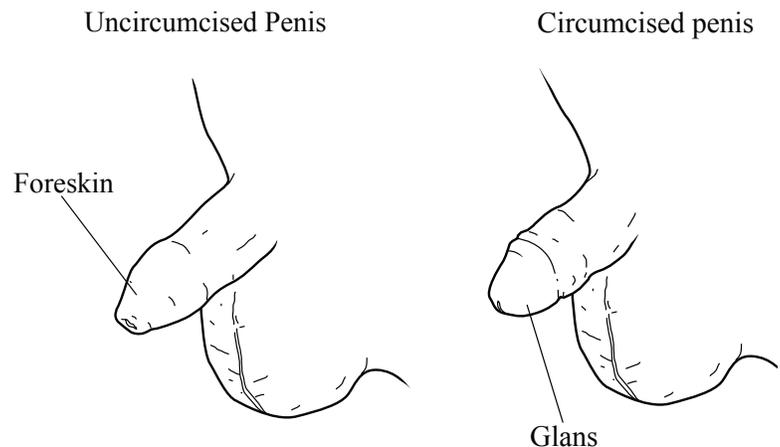
If you decide to have a circumcision for your son, it is done in the hospital nursery by your baby's doctor before your baby goes home.

## How Circumcision is Done

The procedure takes about 15 minutes. The doctor uses a numbing medicine, so the baby feels little pain.

A metal clamp is used around the penis and a piece of it, called the bell, is slipped under the foreskin to protect the end of the penis. The skin is cut around the bell and removed, so the end of the penis can be seen.

The penis may be wrapped in Vaseline gauze. If needed, special gauze or stitches are used for bleeding.



## After the circumcision

- Your baby will be checked for bleeding for about an hour after the procedure.
- Many babies sleep for the first few hours, but try to wake him to feed.
- He may seem uncomfortable when urinating after the numbing medicine has worn off. Holding and swaddling will often soothe him.
- Swelling in the area will go away in 4 or 5 days.

## Care at home

- Keep your baby off of his stomach for the first few days.
- Keep the area clean and dry.
- Use warm water only when washing, with no soap. Gently pat dry.
- With each diaper change for the next 7 days or until the penis is healed:
- Wash your hands before and after.
- Do not use diaper wipes directly on the penis. The alcohol in them can sting.
- Do not try to remove the crust that forms on the wound. It is a part of healing.
- Apply Vaseline to the end of the penis until it is healed.

## **Call your baby's doctor if you notice:**

- More than a few drops of blood on the penis or if the diaper has a spot of blood larger than an inch across.
- No wet diapers or very few within 12 hours of the circumcision.
- Signs of infection, like redness, swelling, pus draining from the area, foul odor or fever.