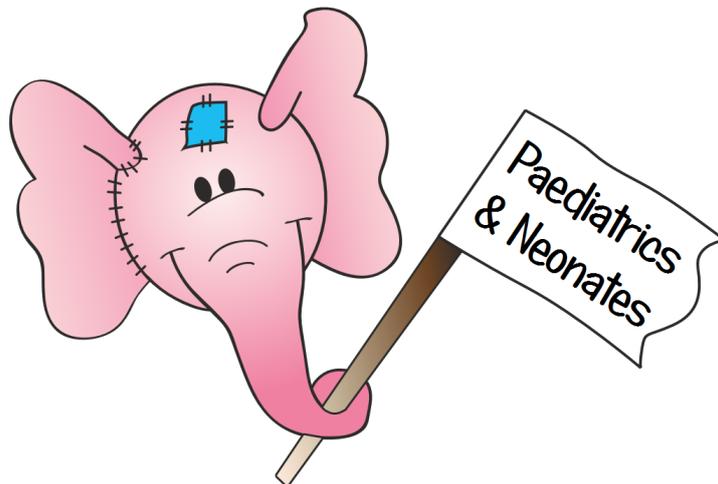


# Circumcision

## Children's Ward

### Parent/Carer Information Leaflet



#### Introduction

Your doctor has recommended that your son has a circumcision. This means that your son will have the foreskin removed from his penis. This leaflet is for parents who are considering this operation for their child. It gives information on what the operation involves and what to expect after it.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Children's Ward.

## **What are the benefits of a circumcision?**

Your son may have a foreskin that is tight and difficult to pull back. This could cause problems as it may be uncomfortable or mean they often get infections. Removing the foreskin will help prevent these problems.

Your son may get frequent infections on his penis which may cause inflammation. People who have been circumcised are less likely to get these types of infection.

## **What are the risks?**

As with all operations, there is a slight risk of infection and bleeding afterwards. You can discuss this with your son's doctor in more detail. There are some rare risks associated with a general anaesthetic which you will be able to discuss with your son's anaesthetist before the operation.

## **What are the alternatives?**

Antibiotics can be used to treat infections. You will need to discuss the effectiveness of this with your son's doctor.

## **What happens when I come for the operation?**

You will have an appointment for the morning or the afternoon.

When you arrive at the Children's Ward, a nurse will ask you some questions and assess your child's:

- blood pressure
- heart rate
- breathing rate

The nurse will put a wrist band on each of your child's wrists and put a numbing cream on the back of their hands. This is used so that when the anaesthetist puts a cannula into their hand to give the anaesthetic, they will not feel this being put in. A cannula is a thin, plastic tube.

The surgeon will come and see you to explain the operation. If you want your child to have the operation, the nurse will ask you to sign a consent form.

The anaesthetist will come and see your child to check that they are well enough to have the operation.

The nurse will be able to give you a rough idea of the time your child will have the operation. We try to minimise delays as much as possible but sometimes these occur.

If you have any questions or worries, please ask the nurse who is looking after your child.

When it is time for your child's operation, one parent can go with them to the anaesthetic room and stay until they are asleep. On waking, a nurse will bring your child back to you on the ward, when the recovery team are happy with them.

During the recovery period on the ward, the nursing team will assess your child and offer them something to eat and drink, when it is safe to do so.

Your child may still have a cannula in when they come back to the ward. We recommend that this is kept in until your child goes home. This can be used to give your child medicine, if they need it. For example, some people feel sick or are sick after having a general anaesthetic. If your child feels sick, please tell the nurse and we can give them some anti-sickness medicine.

### **Will my son be in pain?**

Your son may experience pain after the operation. He will be given pain relief during the operation and after as required. Your son may also be given a penile block or a local anaesthetic, which may make him unsteady on his feet for a few hours after the operation.

You will need to give your son painkillers at home. We recommend getting simple pain control such as paracetamol, if suitable for your child (always read the label; do not exceed the recommended dose). Brand names of this include Calpol, Disprol and Medinol.

Please contact your GP if your child:

- continues to experience a lot of pain
- develops a temperature
- starts being sick
- is generally unwell

### **When can my son go home?**

We hope that your son will be in hospital just for the day but please bring an overnight bag in case your son has to stay. One parent is welcome to stay overnight with their child.

Before they can go home, your child will need to have:

- Eaten an adequate amount of food and drink
- Had no bleeding
- Passed urine
- Stopped being sick
- A normal temperature
- The doctor's approval to go home

We recommend that your child does not travel home on public transport due to the risk of infection.

## **How do I care for my son after his circumcision?**

Your son may have stitches in his penis which will be dissolvable and therefore will not need to be removed. For the first seven days after the operation, we recommend your son wears loose clothing such as jogging bottoms.

We recommend a bath twice a day for one week. There is no need to add anything to the water. It is normal to have some degree of swelling or scabbing, particularly on the underside of the penis. His stream of urine may not be straight until healing is complete.

If you have any concerns about excessive redness, swelling or if your child is unable to pass urine, please ring the Children's Ward for advice. The ward staff may ask the children's community nurses to visit your son to assess his wound.

Your son will need to have his wound checked seven days after his operation. You can have this carried out by your GP practice nurse and we will give you a referral form with the operation details so that you can arrange this.

## **When can my son go back to school?**

We recommend that your son stays away from school until the wound has been checked one week after surgery. Your son should not take part in boisterous activities or sports until his penis has completely healed.

## **Can I find out more?**

You can find out more from the following weblink:

### **NHS Choices**

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Circumcision/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

If you have any questions or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

Children's Ward on 01384 244271

Russells Hall Hospital switchboard number: 01384 456111

**This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:**

<http://dudleygroup.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/c2-childrens-ward/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email [patient.information@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@dgh.nhs.uk)

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.**

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Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

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Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru va rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

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