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CIRCUMCISION

A layer of skin, the **foreskin**, covers the **glans** (head) of the penis. Circumcision is the surgical removal of this foreskin. Whether to have your son circumcised is your decision. Circumcision is an elective procedure. That means it is the parents' choice whether to have their son circumcised or not. In most cases, there is no medical reason for a circumcision. It is not required by law. Although many newborn boys in the United States are circumcised, it is much less common in Northern Europe and other parts of the world. Some parents have their sons circumcised for religious or cultural reasons. Moslems and Jews, for example, have circumcised their male newborns for centuries.

Some parents choose to have their sons circumcised for the sake of hygiene. Smegma- a cheesy discharge containing dead cells- can build up under the foreskin of males who are not circumcised. This can lead to odor or infection. A boy can be taught to wash his penis to get rid of smegma as a part of his daily bathing routine. Some parents choose not to circumcise their sons because they are worried about the pain the baby feels or the risks involved with the surgery. There is no proof that circumcision lowers the risk of **sexually transmitted diseases** (STDs). Some doctors feel that circumcision helps prevent cancer of the penis, a rare condition. Circumcised infants appear to have less risk of infections of the urinary tract than uncircumcised infants. However, the risk in both groups is low.

The procedure is done quickly. The baby will cry during and for a short while afterward. The skin will heal in about 7-10 days.

Complications from a circumcision are rare. However, every surgery carries some risk.

Complications that can occur are:

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Injury to the penis
- Scarring
- Incomplete removal of the foreskin, requiring repeat circumcision

Deciding whether to circumcise your newborn boy is an important choice for parents.

Remember, circumcision is elective- it is your choice whether to have it done. If you have any questions or concerns, talk with your doctor about them during your pregnancy so you have enough time to make an informed decision.

CONSENT FOR CIRCUMCISION

I, the parent hereby request that Dr. _____ perform upon my son, baby boy _____ the circumcision procedure. In addition, if any unforeseen condition arises during the procedure which, in the physician's judgment, calls for any procedures different or separate from those now planned, I further request and authorize the physician to do whatever he deems advisable.

I have read the above information and all of my questions have been answered to my complete satisfaction. I acknowledge that no guarantee or assurance has been made to me as to the results that may be obtained.

Signature

Date

Witness Signature

Date

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CIRCUMCISION PROCEDURE REPORT

Circumcision performed on baby boy _____ on _____
DATE

by Dr. _____ with sterile technique, using a Gomco clamp.

Comments: _____

Physician Signature

CARE OF THE CIRCUMCISED INFANT

The circumcision is like any other cut. It must be kept clean to prevent infection and other complications. Keep this in mind as you care for your baby's circumcised penis over the next 7-10 days of healing.

- Keep the area as clean as possible
- Wash the penis with soap and water at least once a day
- Change diapers often to avoid infection.

Immediately after the procedure, the doctor will wrap the area with Vaseline soaked gauze. This dressing may fall off on its own. If it does not fall off, moisten it with warm water and unwrap it about 24 hours after the procedure, If it gets soiled (dirty), remove it right away. After the Vaseline gauze is off, put a small amount of Vaseline on a gauze pad and cover the penis with a tent of gauze after each diaper change. The Vaseline will help keep the incision moist and prevent it from sticking to the diaper. The gauze will help keep stool off the incision.

Observe for bleeding or signs of infection such as swelling, redness or drainage. If these occur or the baby is unable to urinate, call your pediatrician immediately.