

Information for Parents About Circumcision

Circumcision is the medical term used to describe the surgical removal of the foreskin. In infants, circumcision can be done in the clinic with local anesthesia. However, after a child reaches age three months we prefer to do a circumcision in the operating room under general anesthesia. Using local anesthesia and performing the circumcision on infants older than three months can be frightening for the child.

How is the surgery done?

The foreskin has two sides, the inside skin and the outside skin. A circumcision is performed by making a circular incision in the outside skin and a second one in the inside skin. The foreskin is then removed and the two skin edges are sewn together with stitches that dissolve. No stitches have to be removed after surgery.

Is the surgery safe?

Yes! Almost all boys can have their circumcision as an outpatient. This means that the child comes in to the outpatient surgery center, has the surgery and is ready to go home within about three hours. Loyola has well-trained pediatric anesthesiologists who have had special training in the care of children. They use continuous oxygen, heart and blood pressure monitoring to make sure that the anesthesia is safe.

Are there any possible complications with the surgery?

There are very few complications with a circumcision. The most common complication is bleeding, but this occurs in less than one out of two hundred boys who have a circumcision. This bleeding might require some pressure on the site of bleeding or, rarely, a stitch. However, this is extremely unlikely. Infection also is extremely rare.

How is the surgery scheduled?

If your surgery date wasn't scheduled in the clinic, you should contact our secretary by e-mail at lbauman@luhs.org. She will arrange the surgery date. You may also contact her by telephone at 708/216-6266. After the surgery is scheduled you will receive a phone call from the Outpatient Surgery Office. They will ask you questions about your child's health, medication use and allergies. You will also be given instructions about the time you should arrive on the day of surgery and the time you should stop giving your child food and water.

What special care will my child need on the day of surgery?

In order for the surgery to be safe your child needs to have an empty stomach on the day of surgery. This means that he should have **nothing to eat or drink (including water) for several hours before surgery**. The anesthesia doctor will tell you more about this. **Your child should not take ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil, etc.) or aspirin within 7 days of the surgery**. It can increase the risk of bleeding complications. If your child has a cold, flu or fevers within one week of the surgery please call my office to reschedule. It would be unsafe to proceed with surgery if your child is ill.

Will my child require special care after surgery?

If your doctor decides to use a dressing after the surgery, he will give you instructions on how to care for it before you go home on the day of surgery. Your child will need some pain medication for a few days following surgery. Children's ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil, etc.), Tylenol or some other aspirin free children's pain medication is best. You should apply some antibiotic ointment to the stitches two to three times a day for two weeks following the surgery. Your son can bathe or shower 24 hours after his surgery. You should use a warm wet wash cloth rather than diaper wipes for the first two weeks following the circumcision. Your son will probably be ready to go back to his regular activities within 5 days of the surgery. If your child is in school, I recommend that he not take gym class for one week following the surgery.

Is there anything I can do to prepare my child for surgery?

When a child is old enough to talk there are several things that can help prepare him for surgery. Most children are anxious if they don't know what will happen to them. You can ease this fear by talking about the upcoming surgery. Many local libraries have books about going to the hospital or doctor's office. Some have video tapes on this subject. Children are often fearful of an unfamiliar environment. It may help to bring a favorite toy or blanket on the day of surgery.

Like children, parents are also sometimes anxious about the unknown. Don't hesitate to ask questions. We want you to have all of the information you need about your child's care. It may help to write down questions as you think about them. Bring them to the Outpatient Surgery Center and we will be happy to answer them.

For more information on this topic you are welcome to visit Dr. Hatch's web site: Genitourinary Development [www.meddean.luc.edu/lumen/meded/urology/guhome.htm]

For more information about Dr. Hatch please visit our web site [www.luhs.org/urology]

David A. Hatch, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.A.P.

Derek Matoka, M.D.

Section of Pediatric Urology
Loyola University Medical Center
2160 S. First Avenue
Maywood, IL 60153

Anne Casaccio, RN

Linda Bauman, Secretary

lbauman@luhs.org

708/216-5111

708/216-6266

Office:

708/216-6266

Appointments:

Central Scheduling (all clinics) 708/216-8563

Darien 630/985-4989

Elmhurst 708/327-7030

Hickory Hills 708/233-5333

Homer Glen 708.645.3400

Oakbrook Terrace 630/953-6600

Wheaton 603.665.5995

Directions and maps available at www.luhs.org

7/28/2010