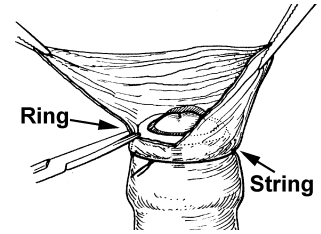


Information for Parents About **NEWBORN CIRCUMCISION**

How is the circumcision performed?

We use two methods to remove the foreskin in newborns:

The **Plastibell** is a hollow plastic ring that is placed over the head of the penis. The foreskin is pulled over the ring and then a string is tied against the ring to hold the two skin layers together during the healing process. The foreskin is then removed leaving the ring, the string and a small amount of the foreskin on the penis. The skin will look pale (like the umbilical cord) at first and then grow darker over the next several days. Four to 12 days following the circumcision, the ring will fall off. At this point the penis will still be red and somewhat swollen. This will go away within 1 to 2 weeks.



The **Gomco** clamp is placed over the head of the penis. The foreskin is pulled over the clamp and then a ring is tightened against the clamp. This crushes the two skin edges to make them heal together without stitches. After the clamp is tightened, the foreskin is removed. After the circumcision, you may notice some blood spotting on the diaper, swelling and bruising on the penis or scrotum.

Could there be any complications from the circumcision?

Complications are rare following circumcision. The most common complication is minor bleeding (about 1/200 to 1/300). A small amount of bleeding or blood spotting is normal following a circumcision. If more bleeding occurs, we may need to hold pressure on the penis for several minutes. Rarely, a stitch is placed to control bleeding after circumcision. Infection is possible, but extremely rare. You will notice swelling, bruising and even some scab formation following the circumcision. This is normal and is not a sign of infection. Finally, we try to judge just how much skin to remove, but we are not perfect. Rarely, as a boy grows up, there may be too much skin left covering part of the head of the penis. If this occurs, a circumcision revision may be necessary. Rarely, a scar forms around the circumcision line, covering the head of the penis. If this occurs, the scar must be cut to free the head of the penis.

Will my son feel pain during and after the circumcision?

We try to decrease the pain caused by circumcision as much as we can. We give Tylenol and then use a local anesthetic injection placed at the base of the penis. You may notice a small puncture (like a mosquito bite) and some bruising around the base of the penis from the injection. This will go away within a day or two.

How do I care for my son following the circumcision?

Plastibell – Change the diaper the way you usually would. After the ring falls off, put a small amount of antibiotic ointment (Polysporin, Neosporin, bacitracin, etc.) around the circumcision line with each diaper change. If the skin of the shaft of the penis rolls over the head of the penis, push back on the skin at the base of the penis to unroll the shaft skin.

Gomco – Change the diaper the way you usually would. Put a small amount of antibiotic ointment (Polysporin, Neosporin, bacitracin, etc.) around the circumcision line with each diaper change for 1 week. If the skin of the shaft of the penis rolls over the head of the penis, push back on the skin at the base of the penis to unroll the shaft skin.

Is there anything I should watch for?

If you see oozing of blood from the penis, if you see a constant dripping of blood, or if you see blood clots in the diaper the size of a kidney bean, call the doctor at the number below. You will see swelling and bruising of the penis following the circumcision. This is normal. However, if you see creamy drainage on the penis or in the diaper, if your son cannot pass urine or if you see swelling or redness on the abdomen near the penis, call your doctor at the number below.

In the event of an urgent emergency, you may take your child to the Loyola University Medical Center Emergency Department (708/216-3882) or to an emergency room near to you.

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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

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