

Circumcision (child)

This document will give you information about a circumcision. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

What is a circumcision?

A circumcision is an operation to remove the foreskin (the skin that covers the sensitive tip of the penis).

Worldwide, circumcisions are most commonly performed for religious or cultural reasons. In the United Kingdom, circumcisions are usually performed only for medical reasons such as balanitis xerotica obliterans (BXO), a non-retractile foreskin and recurrent infections.

Are there any alternatives to circumcision?

If BXO is suspected, a circumcision is the only dependable way to cure the condition. A non-retractile foreskin can often be treated with steroid creams.

- If your child does not have BXO, a dorsal slit operation or a preputioplasty may be recommended.

What does the operation involve?

The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic.

During the operation your surgeon will remove the foreskin and seal off any small blood vessels. They will stitch the two edges of skin together (see figure 1).

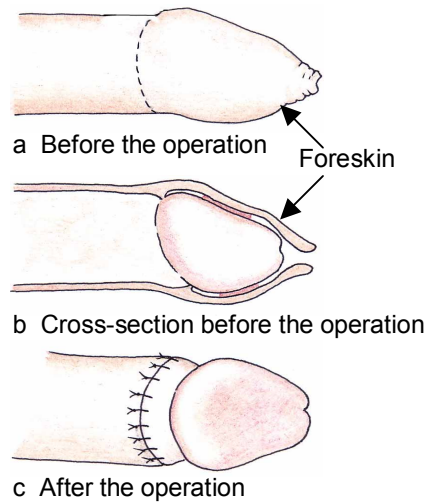


Figure 1

Circumcision

What complications can happen?

1 General complications of any operation

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Infection in the surgical wound
- Unsightly scarring

2 Specific complications of this operation

- Difficulty passing urine
- Developing an ulcer at the tip of the penis
- Narrowing of the opening of the urethra
- Too much foreskin is removed
- Not enough foreskin is removed
- Damage to the urethra
- Injury to the end of the penis
- Cosmetic problems

How soon will my child recover?

Your child should be able to go home the same day or the day after. The penis may look sore, swollen and bruised.

It is usually possible to return to school between a week and ten days after the operation.

Summary

A circumcision is an operation to remove the foreskin.

Further information

You can get further information from:

- www.aboutmyhealth.org - for support and information you can trust
- NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 (0845 606 46 47 - textphone)
- www.eidohealthcare.com

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This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.



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