NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL™

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nationwidechildrens.org

CIRCUMCISION

A circumcision (sir-cum-SI-zhun) is the surgical removal of the foreskin (extra skin) from around the end of the penis. After the circumcision, the penis:

- ❒ Is wrapped with Vaseline-soaked gauze. The gauze will fall off on its own and may be left off. The stitches under the gauze will dissolve and do not need to be removed; or
- ❒ Has a plastic ring around it. The ring will fall off in 5 to 7 days. There are no stitches to be removed.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SURGERY

- After surgery your child will wake up in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) near surgery. He will be taken back to his room when he recovers from the anesthetic.
- There may be some swelling that will go away in about a week.
- Your child may have some discomfort after his surgery. Acetaminophen (such as Tylenol®) may be given as directed by your doctor (see *Pain Medicine After Surgery* on page 2).
- It is common for babies to sleep longer than expected after this surgery.

HOME CARE AFTER SURGERY

- An older child should wear loose clothing until the penis is healed.
- For infants and toddlers, change diapers often.
- It is best for an infant to sleep on his back or side, but an older child may sleep on his stomach if he wants to.
- Do not put any medicine on the penis unless instructed to do so by your doctor.

PLAY

- Your child should walk and play quietly for the first 7 days after surgery (Picture 1).
- No riding toys, walkers, bouncers, or rough play with other children should be allowed during this time.
- There are **NO** restrictions to the use of car seats.

Picture 1 Your child should play quietly for the first 7 days after surgery.

BATHING

- ❒ Your child may have a tub bath or shower in _____days.
- ❒ Follow your doctor's instructions for bathing your child.

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PAIN MEDICINE AFTER SURGERY

DOCTOR'S ORDER

- Your child's doctor has prescribed acetaminophen, _____mg. Tylenol, Feverall, and Tempra® are some of the brand names of this medicine.
- Follow the instructions on the label to find the number of tablets or amount of liquid to give your child.
- This medicine should be given every 4 hours if your child has pain for the next 3 or 4 days.
- If your child has severe pain that is not relieved by acetaminophen, call your doctor.
- Side effects are rare, but if your child has nausea or vomiting, skin rash or bruises, stop giving this medicine and call your doctor.

SAFETY TIPS AND OTHER INFORMATION

- Read the label **each time** before you give your child this medicine.
- Give the exact amount of medicine as ordered by your doctor.
- If the medicine is a liquid, use a pediatric measuring device (available at the pharmacy) to measure the exact dose. Do not measure liquid medicines in kitchen spoons.
- Stay with your child until he or she has swallowed the dose of medicine.
- Do not give more than 5 doses of this medicine in a 24-hour period unless ordered by your doctor.
- Store all medicine out of the reach of children.
- If your child or someone else takes too much of this medicine, first call the Central Ohio Poison Center at (614) 228-1323 or 1-800-222-1222. They will tell you what to do.

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

Call Dr. _____at (phone)_____ if any of the following occurs:

- If there is drainage from the surgical area.
- If there is a lot of bleeding from the surgical area.
- If your child does not urinate.
- If your child's temperature is higher than 102° F.
- If the plastic ring does not drop off in 8 days.
- Call your doctor or come to the Emergency Department if the head of the penis comes out (pushes out) of the ring and will not go back in.

FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENT

Call Dr. _____ at (phone) _____ to make a follow-up appointment.

If you have questions or your child has complications, call your child's doctor, Outpatient Surgery at (614) 722-5200, Surgery Center at (614) 722-2920 or, in an emergency, call the Hospital operator at (614) 722-2000 and ask for the surgeon on call for your doctor.