



Circumcision Information Sheet

Circumcision is a surgical procedure in which the skin covering the end of the penis is removed. Scientific studies show a number of medical benefits for circumcision, however, it is mostly done for religious, social, or cultural reasons. When circumcision is not advised for medical reasons, it is **not covered by Alberta Health** and it should only be provided if the infant is in good health. We offer this procedure for newborns until 3 months old.

Before the procedure

- Buy Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and Vaseline ointment and bring them with you on the appointment day. Do not apply the Vaseline before the appointment.
- Give the Tylenol to your child **1 hour before** their appointment. Tylenol dosing is **15 mg per 1 kg weight**. That means if your baby weighs 4kg, he can get 60 mg or 0.7 ml by syringe. If you are unsure, please call our office.

During the Procedure

- You can feed your son before the procedure.
- During the procedure, he will be on a board to keep the arms and legs from moving during the procedure. You may sing or play music to help calm your baby.
- After cleansing the penis and surrounding area, an anesthetic medicine is injected into the base of penis. Then a plastic ring will be used to remove the foreskin. The plastic ring will stay on and Vaseline is applied over that.
- The procedure takes about 10 minutes.

After the Procedure

- You can give your son Tylenol every 6 hours for 2-3 days if he is irritable.
- It's best if you leave the area open to air and rinse the penis with warm water after each void. If you prefer to keep the diaper on, rinse the penis after changing the diaper.
- You can shower him after one day: dab the penis with water and soap, then dry and apply Vaseline on the incision.
- It takes 5-8 days for the ring to drop off and heal. A dark brown area around the plastic ring is normal. This will disappear when the ring drops off.

Risks

- Allergic reaction to anesthetic (this is extremely rare).
- There is a very small risk of bleeding and infection in every surgical procedure. If bleeding is more than one sponge's worth, call the clinic or seek medical attention.

Please notify us if:

- Your baby has a **fever**.
- Your baby **doesn't feed** as usual.
- There is any **unusual swelling** of penis.
- If plastic ring has **not fallen off after 8 days**.
- If the **plastic ring slipped** and is sitting on the shaft of the penis.