



## 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

- We set up a visit with parent and son before the procedure, to discuss the procedure and weigh him.
- We will ask you to get **Acetaminophen (Tylenol) syrup** 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. We will give you more instructions on the Tylenol dosing when we visit.
- Make sure to bring the **Tylenol, Vaseline, a soother** (if your son takes one), and **formula** if not breast fed on the day of procedure. Also bring a **baby blanket**, a few **diapers**, and **diaper wipes** with you.

### During the Procedure

- You can feed your son before the procedure.
- We usually give some sugar water to your son to soothe him and help with the pain sensation.
- For the procedure, we first wrap your son's arms with the blanket. He will be on a board with his legs held with straps to limit moving during the procedure. You may stay in the room with your son and sing or play music to help calm him.
- After cleansing the penis and surrounding area, an anesthetic medicine is injected into the base of penis to numb it. Then a plastic ring will be placed which will 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.
- After the procedure you may put on the diaper or leave him open if preferred. After each diaper change rinse the penis with some lukewarm water.
- You can shower him after one day: dab the penis with water, then very gently dry and apply Vaseline on the incision. Do not rub the penis and do not squeeze it.
- 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.
- You might notice the penis is swollen or a few drops of blood on the diaper. These are expected changes after the procedure.

### 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 soaked sponge, 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.