

CIRCUMCISION: PROCEDURE OPTIONS AND AFTER PROCEDURE CARE

What is a circumcision?

At birth, boys have skin that covers the end of the penis, called the foreskin. Circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin, exposing the tip of the penis. Circumcision is usually performed by a doctor in the first few days of life.

In our office, we use two different methods to circumcise:

- 1. PLASTIBELL:** This procedure starts with the patient being given a local anesthetic to help numb the area. The Plastibell method involves a clear plastic ring being placed on the tip of the penis. A string is tied around the foreskin, cutting off blood flow. The excess foreskin above the Plastibell is trimmed off. The plastic ring remains in place to the tip of the penis where it should fall off around 5-10 days after the procedure.
- 2. GOMCO:** This procedure starts with the patient being given a local anesthetic to help numb the area. The foreskin is separated from the head of the penis, and a bell-shaped device is fitted (an incision may be made in the foreskin to allow this). The foreskin is then pulled up and a clamp is tightened, the foreskin is then removed with a scalpel. The device is removed and a Vaseline dressing is placed on the penis.

After care for each method:

With either procedure, it is possible that your child may be fussy for a few hours after the procedure

- 1. PLASTIBELL:** The plastic rim usually drops off 5-10 days later. Call our office if the rim has not dropped off 10 days after the circumcision or if the rim has slipped down the shaft of the penis. No special dressing is necessary. Do not use Vaseline. A dark brown or black ring encircling the plastic rim is normal and will disappear after the rim falls off. Only sponge bathe until Plastibell falls off.
- 2. GOMCO:** After removing the initial Vaseline dressing, apply a small amount of Vaseline to a gauze pad, and place over the circumcised area with each diaper change for the next 3-5 days. This will prevent the diaper from sticking to the healing skin. It is normal for the first few diaper changes to show some spotting of blood. Clean gently and avoid rubbing. Do not worry if there is a moist, yellow coating over the head of the penis. This is a part of the healing called "granulation tissue". Only sponge bathe until the healing has progressed well.

Call our office or schedule an appointment if:

- *Patient develops fever of 100.4 or above.
- *If spotting of blood on diaper gets heavier and heavier rather than less and less.
- *Patient hasn't urinated by eight hours after the procedure.
- *Procedure area has any swelling and/or pus-like drainage with a foul odor.
- *Plastibell ring slips down the shaft of the penis.
- *Plastibell has not fallen off by after 10 days.