

Having a Circumcision

Paediatric guide for children and parents

A circumcision is an operation to remove the foreskin, the loose fold of skin covering the bulbous end (the glans), of the penis.

Much of the skin is removed and the remainder is stitched to the base of the glans using dissolvable stitches. This operation will be done under a general anaesthetic as a day case.

On The Day

When you are admitted to The Children's Ward, you will be allocated a bed and be welcomed by a nurse who will do some paperwork, record your observations and apply a numbing cream ready for cannulation. This is a small tube inserted into your hand where the medicine is given and will be done in the Anaesthetic Room.

A doctor will discuss the operation with you and you will also see the Anaesthetist. You and/or your parents will need to give consent for the procedure.

When it is time for the procedure, a member of staff from Day Theatre will come and collect you. One parent and the nurse from the ward will come with you and stay with you until you are asleep. Mum or dad will come and see you again when you wake up and you will come back to the Children's Ward to recover.

- You may be quite sleepy when you come back and a little sleep is a good idea
- When you are ready you will be given a drink and something light to eat
- You will also be expected to have a wee before you leave

After care advice

- Any dressing should be removed prior to leaving the hospital if possible, or as soon as able once home
- Parents are advised to give regular paracetamol and ibuprofen for up to 5 days
- No baths or showers for the first 3 days and then quick dips after this
- Some oozing from the wound or minor bleeding is common - if this becomes more evident after day 6/7 use salt water to clean
- Reddening around the wound is common for the first 3-5 days. If it develops after this time please contact the nurse at your GP surgery

Some children may need a steroid cream to start 2 weeks after the procedure to help with scarring. Following a circumcision the glans is always sensitive and this can last for weeks and sometimes longer. The sutures (stitches) will dissolve in their own time and do not need to be removed.

You can go back to school after one week if all is well. It is advisable to avoid swimming and all sports for 2 weeks.

There is no formal follow up appointment needed for this procedure.

If you would like this information in another format or a different language, please ask a member of staff.

Ref: 10-20-136

Review Date 07/22

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