

Hamilton Community Health Centre

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Circumcision Care Sheet

Neonatal circumcision involves the removal of the foreskin from the penis – that is, the skin covering the head of the penis, and a bit of the skin from the top of the shaft of the penis. Medical evidence in support of the neonatal circumcision is not strong and we cannot recommend circumcision for all baby boys on medical grounds.

These underlying parts of the penis are not normally exposed for 2 or 3 more years, and will appear quite raw for the first week after the procedure. You can expect that the area at the top of the shaft of the penis especially will become swollen after the circumcision – this will settle in a couple of days. In addition, there may be a bit of yellowish-green discharge in this area – this is normal in small amounts.

A metal clamp and bell are used to seal the foreskin. No stitches are used, nor are they necessary. It is important in the aftercare of the circumcision that you try not to pull this sealed area apart. If pulled apart, this may result in bleeding and will prolong complete healing. Stitches are only used in cases of heavy bleeding.

The procedure takes about 20 minutes in total to perform. No anesthetic is used although you can apply Emla Cream® to numb the area beforehand and also give him Infant Tylenol® or Tempra®, 0.5ml, 1 hour before procedure and as directed after the procedure. It is very important that the baby is not fed 3 hours prior to procedure.

The most important item to use after the circumcision is plenty of unscented Vaseline® to prevent the penis from sticking to the baby's skin or diaper. The penis may be cleaned with water and gentle wiping with a soft washcloth if necessary. Remember to wipe in such a way as to not pull the sealed layers of skin apart. Tub bathing should be voided for the first 3 to 5 days.

If you notice the area to be oozing blood after the procedure, try to settle the baby if he is agitated by feeding or cuddling him. This tends to lower the baby's blood pressure and allows the bleeding to stop. If the bleeding persists, Vaseline® coated gauze or cloth can be held against the area. In case of continued heavy bleeding, please contact the office immediately at 905.529.5221.

If you have any further questions regarding neonatal circumcision, please feel free to ask.

Sincerely,

Dr. Allen Greenspoon & Dr. Joel Yellin