

Post-Operative Instructions – Circumcision

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Any operation on your child can be a worrying time. Hopefully, this information will give you some guidance and peace of mind after your little boy's circumcision.

Pain

Pain is not usually a big problem after a circumcision. A caudal block may have been given, which causes numbness below the belly button, so your child should be comfortable immediately after surgery. An appropriate type and amount of pain medication will be recommended or prescribed for your child.

Stitches

There will be some small, white stitches around the circumference of the penis along the wound edge just behind the rim of the head of the penis. These usually disappear in a week or two. You may give the genital area a rinse with a shower within the first 48 hours after surgery, though avoid soap. It is safe to begin baths two days after surgery, as the wound is usually sealed by then.

Dressings

Your child's penis will be dressed with a Vaseline dressing and gauze wrap. It is quite common, however, for the dressing to be pulled off at an early stage by wondering hands! Don't worry if this occurs. If there is no dressing, apply Vaseline to the penis with every nappy change or, for potty-trained children, leave dry. If the dressing is still adherent after 2 days, try soaking off in the bath. If it fails to fall off by the third day after surgery, please notify our MSG nurses.

Healing

Circumcisions typically heal very quickly. It is normal to see some bruising, swelling, and oozing of blood onto the underwear / nappy for a day or two. Red spots in the nappy are typically seen. Abnormal bleeding usually occurs on the underside of the penis. Any heavy or persistent bleeding, i.e clots in the underpants or nappy, should be brought to our attention immediately – please ring the MSG nurses during office hours, or Frossard Ward after hours. In the meantime, try applying gentle pressure to the site of bleeding using a Kleenex. This technique usually stops the bleeding, but it is sometimes necessary to stitch the wound.

Infections

Infections after circumcision are unusual. A thick, adherent yellowish film frequently forms

on the head of the penis after penile surgery. The film is a normal part of healing and should not be confused with pus, which is runny.

Baths are very important for healing. Once you have begun bathing your child, gently clean the penis with a soft flannel to remove the build-up of dried blood and yellowy film.

Worries

If you have any questions, or if something doesn't seem right, please call the MSG nurses during regular business hours (8 am to 5 pm). Don't wait until the afternoon to call, especially if you think your child might need to be seen, as the office closes at 5pm.

Follow-Up

There is generally no need for Mr Cole to see your child routinely after the operation. Occasionally he may wish to do so. If the nurses want him to review your child, he will do so at short notice.