

Circumcision: Pre-Operative Information

What is circumcision?

A circumcision is a procedure to surgically remove the foreskin from the penis. This is most often done shortly after birth, but sometimes a circumcision is done later in a child's life, even in adulthood.

How is circumcision done?

On older, larger babies general anesthesia is used to reduce the pain, stress and bleeding. The foreskin is removed and the skin edges are brought back together. Your doctor may use a stitch material which will dissolve in about a week to ten days.

How old should my son be?

If a circumcision has not been done shortly after birth, and if the parents would like it to be done it is best to wait until 4-6 months of age. Your doctor may decide to do surgery sooner or later due to your child's medical condition.

How long will surgery take?

The actual surgery takes about 30 minutes, followed by 30-60 minutes in the recovery room. After he is awake and out of the recovery room, you will be able to be with him. He will be able to go home with you in about one hour.

Before your son is discharged, you will be given written information about his care at home and your questions will be answered.

Recovery at home

There will be some pain during the first 24-36 hours. You may give your son acetaminophen (tylenol or another brand) to make him comfortable. You will need to check the penis every 3-4 hours during the day for any bleeding. An ointment will be prescribed by your doctor to apply in generous amounts each time you change your son's diaper. Most of the healing is usually complete in 7-10 days.

If you have questions

If you have any questions or concerns, please call your child's doctor at Pediatric Surgical Associates at (612) 813-8000 or 1-800-992-6983.

