



Circumcision

Discharge information for parents

Your baby has had a circumcision – a surgical procedure in which the skin covering the tip of the penis is removed. Please follow these instructions regarding care of the area. If you have problems or concerns, please call your baby’s health care provider.

What to expect

- The tip of the penis will look red and shiny. It will probably develop a sticky, whitish-yellow coating. This is part of the normal healing process.
- You will see a gauze coated with petroleum jelly (Vaseline) placed over the tip of the penis where the circumcision was performed. This helps the healing process by keeping the wound from sticking to the diaper. It also protects the area from irritation caused by urine.
- Your baby should urinate within 10-12 hours of the circumcision. If he does not, call your baby’s health care provider.
- Over the next 7-10 days, the penis will look less red and sore. If you have concerns about whether or not the area is healing properly, please call your baby’s health care provider.

How to clean the area

- If the gauze dressing does not fall off in about 10 hours, gently remove it. If it does not come off easily, soak the gauze in water first by squeezing warm water over the area with a washcloth. You should then be able to gently remove the gauze.
- Try not to touch the circumcision site directly while it is healing.
- If your baby’s bowel movement comes in contact with the circumcision site, squeeze clean, warm water over the area and let it run off.
- During your baby’s bath, clean the area the same way. Squeeze water over the area from a warm cloth. Once the area is fully healed (in about 7-10 days), wash the baby’s penis with mild soap and water just as you wash the rest of his body.
- Each time you change the baby’s diaper, apply petroleum jelly to the circumcision area. Place a large glob of jelly right onto the circumcision site, or on the area of the diaper where the penis will rest. Continue to apply petroleum jelly to the site for at least seven days after the circumcision.

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Problems that can occur

Problems following circumcision are rare. The most common problems are bleeding and infection.

Bleeding

- If the area starts to bleed, press a dry gauze over the area. (Your nurse will give you some gauze before you leave the hospital.) If the bleeding does not stop in a few minutes, call your baby's health care provider.
- If the bleeding is soaking the gauze and is not slowing down, take your baby to the emergency room.

Infection

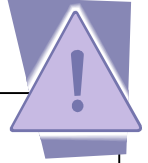
- Check the area for signs of infection each time you change the diaper. Call your baby's health care provider if:
 - ✓ the penis looks more and more red, not less
 - ✓ there is a foul odor
 - ✓ there is a thick, green/yellow discharge that smells bad (pus) coming from the area

Fever and behavioral changes are other signs of infection. Call your baby's health care provider any time your baby has a temperature over 100 degrees and/or seems unusually fussy or sleepy.

Please ask if you may give your baby acetaminophen for pain relief after circumcision. Guidelines for giving your baby acetaminophen follow on the next pages.

Using acetaminophen after circumcision

****Note:** Please ask your baby's health care provider if your baby may have acetaminophen before giving it to your baby.



If your baby weighs 5 pounds, 12 ounces or more, he may be given acetaminophen for pain following circumcision. We know from research that an infant feels pain just like an older child or adult. Giving acetaminophen **for 24 hours** after circumcision can help.

What to buy

- You may buy generic or name-brand **infant acetaminophen**. (“Tylenol” is a common brand name for acetaminophen.)
- Make sure the medicine you buy contains **160 mg per 5 mL** or **32 mg per mL** of acetaminophen. (You can find this information on the medicine label. **Read the important caution in the box on this page.**)
- The medicine will come in a bottle with a syringe that goes in the baby's mouth (oral syringe). **Please use only the oral syringe that comes with the medicine when giving the medicine to your baby.**
- Make sure the oral syringe has a mark for a 1.25 mL dose. If it does not, do not use this product for your baby.
- Do not use “children's” acetaminophen. Use **“infant” preparations only**.

Caution!!

In 2011, makers of infant acetaminophen products (such as Tylenol) **changed** the way the medicine is made. This affects the dose that is right for your baby. Please note:

- If you are following the instructions on this sheet, you **must** make sure that the medicine you are using says it contains “160mg per 5mL” of acetaminophen.
- If your bottle says “80 mg per 0.8 mL.” **do not use the instructions on this sheet.** Call your provider for advice.
- **Always** read labels on any medicine you give your baby, and **always** use dosing devices that come with that product.
- If you are not sure what dose to give your baby, **always** call your health care provider or pharmacist for advice. Someone is covering for your baby's health care provider 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

How to give the acetaminophen

- Withdraw 1.25 mL into the oral syringe from the bottle. (**This will provide 40 mg.**)
- Get the baby to open his mouth by stroking his lips from under the nose toward the chin.
- Gently put the oral syringe tip inside the cheek, and press the oral syringe plunger a little to let some medicine into the mouth.

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- Let the baby swallow.
- Repeat until all of the dose is swallowed.
- Rinse the oral syringe with warm water after each use.
- You may use acetaminophen every **six (6) hours** but **only for 24 hours in all**. That is a total of three or four doses, including doses your baby may have gotten in the hospital. Use the chart below to keep track of how many doses your baby has had.

Acetaminophen doses after circumcision

Give the medicine **only for a total of 24 hours**, and only if your baby’s health care provider says it is okay. In most cases, we start your baby on acetaminophen while he is still in the hospital. This is the start of the 24 hour period. We may give only the first dose or more than one. Ask your baby’s nurse how many doses your baby has had.

At home, you may give a new dose every **six (6) hours** for the rest of the 24 hour period. Ask your nurse how many doses are left.

Use the space below to record information about your baby’s acetaminophen doses.

Date and time of first dose: _____

Date and time you should stop giving the acetaminophen

A record of the next doses (to help you keep track):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

*Acetaminophen is an effective and safe medicine when used as directed for your baby. However, using more than the recommended dose can cause serious problems. Please use only the amount prescribed, and **make sure you are using the right type of acetaminophen for your baby.***

This material was prepared by clinicians from the departments of neonatology, nursing and pharmacy at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. It is produced and distributed by The Beth Israel Deaconess Learning Center. ©2011 Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. All rights reserved.
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