

# **Circumcision**

## **After the Operation**

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### **Going home**

Boys who have had circumcision are usually able to go home the same day.

### **The wound**

It is important to tell your son about the change in appearance of his penis following his operation. The wound may look red, swollen and moist for a few days before it begins to heal. The wound should heal within 7 – 10 days. The stitches can take between 2 – 4 weeks to dissolve and fall away.

There may be a small ooze of blood from the wound but if bleeding continues, please contact the ward.

If you see any signs of infection at the wound area please make an appointment with your GP. Signs of wound infection can include an increase in pain, swelling or redness around the stitch line, discharge from the wound which is discoloured, a strong smell from the area or if your child has a temperature and is unsettled.

If your son is having difficulty in passing urine (doing a 'wee'), he may find it more comfortable to pass urine in the bath, filled with some water. It will also help if your son drinks lots of fluid and continues to take his pain relief.

### **Pain**

Some discomfort will be experienced after surgery. We advise using a combination of ibuprofen and paracetamol, following the dosage instructions on the bottle. You may also be given three doses of morphine oral solution to take home and we advise using this in the first 24 hours after your child's operation. Morphine oral solution is a stronger pain relief.

### **Bathing and clothing**

Twice-daily baths should start the day after the operation for one week, unless your son has had difficulty in passing urine (see above). It is best not to add anything to the bath water.

Loose-fitting clothes e.g. boxer shorts/tracksuit bottoms are most comfortable. If possible, babies can be left without nappies for some of the day. Vaseline can be smeared on the front of the nappy or boys' pants to prevent the wound sticking. It is important that no other creams, ointments or talc are applied directly to or near the wound.

## Play and school

To minimize swelling it is advised that your son avoids activity and rests for the first three days after surgery.

Your son should be fit to return to school or nursery approximately seven days following their operation.

Sporting activities can start again when completely healed, usually after four to six weeks.

## Questions and problems

If you have any problems in the first week at home, please contact us on the ward or your GP. Out of hours, NHS 24 is available for advice, or you can attend the Emergency Department at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People if required.

Your consultant surgeon is \_\_\_\_\_

A follow-up appointment has/has not been arranged on

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

We hope that this leaflet has been useful. If you have any further questions, please ask a member of staff before you leave.

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