



Information About Newborn Circumcision

The skin that covers the head of the penis is called foreskin. Circumcision is surgery to remove that skin. Some insurance will not pay for it. Be sure to call your insurance and ask.

This information may help you make a decision.

Parents' Choice

Circumcision is your choice.

Current evidence indicates that the health benefits of newborn male circumcision outweigh the risks. Studies indicate that there are medical benefits, including a lower risk of:

- Urinary tract and foreskin infections.
- Cancer of the penis.
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including HIV

Some reasons you may not choose circumcision:

- Other men in the family are not circumcised.
- Baby may feel pain.
- Risks of surgery.
- Though the following have not been proven by any medical study, some think:
 - The foreskin is needed to protect the tip of the penis; removing the foreskin may make the penis less sensitive.
 - There will be a decrease in sexual pleasure later in life.

Pain control during and after circumcision:

- Penile block – numbing medicine is injected around the penis before the procedure.
- Sucrose and pacifier – a pacifier is dipped in a concentrated sugar solution; the combination of sugar and sucking provides some pain relief.
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol) is given by mouth for pain control.
- Breastfeeding babies may be comforted at mother's breast after the procedure is complete.

If you have questions, please talk with your doctor.