



Building Blocks to Brighter Futures

Resources to Help Make Sure All Our Kids are "AOK"

Proper Care for a Circumcised Penis

In circumcision, the foreskin is surgically removed, exposing the end (head) of the penis. Normal healing time for a circumcised penis is 7-10 days.

Circumcised Penis



Care for a Newly Circumcised Penis

- There may be a small amount of bleeding from the penis during the first 12-24 hours after circumcision. THIS IS NORMAL.
- There may also be some swelling of the penis after circumcision, this will slowly go away during the first week.
- DO NOT wash the circumcised area for 24 hours unless it is soiled with stool.
- After 24 hours, gently rinse the penis with warm water until the penis has healed.
- Apply petroleum jelly (Vaseline) or antibiotic ointment to the penis with each diaper change while the penis is healing to prevent the penis from sticking to the diaper, unless otherwise directed by the doctor.
- There may be a yellowish or white discharge over the end of the penis after a day or two. THIS IS NORMAL, do not try to wash off this discharge, it helps with healing.

Continued Care for a Circumcised Penis

- After the penis has healed, there is no special care needed for the penis beyond normal washing. Be sure to clean any stool away from the circumcision site completely at each diaper change.
- Do not use cleaning products, astringents or cotton balls on the penis.

For more information, please visit the Kane County Health Department's website at kanehealth.com/aok.htm or call 630-208-3801

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Proper Care for an Uncircumcised Penis

Care for an uncircumcised penis

- The uncircumcised penis is easy to keep clean and needs no special attention or care.
- For the first year, only the outside of the penis needs to be cleaned.
- When bathing, gently move the foreskin to cleanse in any creases.
- NEVER FORCE THE FORESKIN BACK! This can cause pain and infection.
- When finished bathing or changing the baby's diaper, make sure that the foreskin is returned to its normal position.
- As your son grows, the penis sheds skin cells that look like whitish pearls, lumps or bumps under the foreskin. THIS IS NORMAL and requires no special attention.

Uncircumcised Penis



Continued care for an uncircumcised penis

- Over time the foreskin will loosen and retract on its own. Your son may be 3-5 years old before the foreskin becomes fully retractable.
- Once the child is old enough to bathe himself, he should be taught to retract the foreskin and gently wash underneath.

Possible Problems:

- If you notice that the urine stream is weak or dribbling, or your son has pain when urinating, talk to your pediatrician.
- If the foreskin has swelling, redness or yellow pus – talk to your pediatrician.
- If the foreskin is pulled back behind the head of the penis and gets stuck, immediately seek medical attention. (This is a rare problem).
- If the foreskin cannot be retracted by the time your son is 5 years old, talk to your pediatrician.

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