



*Medical advice for parents
thinking about circumcision
for their son for religious reasons*

Circumcision is the name of the operation performed to remove the foreskin. Some religions have a strong tradition of circumcising boys and this is important to many families.



Choosing a service

- ▶ Circumcision, like any other operation, is safest in a clinic or hospital setting - not at home. A suitably qualified and trained health professional should perform the procedure to modern standards of sterility and expertise.
- ▶ The NHS does not fund male circumcision unless your GP decides there is a medical reason. You will need to approach a private healthcare professional who will charge a fee. As with many decisions, it is good to get recommendations from friends and neighbours as well as talking to your doctor.
- ▶ All doctors are registered with the General Medical Council (GMC) (www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/register) and their services and premises are regulated by the Care Quality Commission (www.cqc.org.uk). Not all providers of circumcisions are doctors - if you are in doubt, it is simple to look them up on the GMC website.

When should my son be circumcised?

- ▶ Many parents like to arrange circumcision when their baby is very young, before they are aware of what is happening around them and before they become mobile. It can be performed within the first few days of life but not until breastfeeding is properly established and it is clear that the baby is well and has no medical problems. Babies who are born early need to wait until after their due date and should weigh more than 5lb (2.5kg).

What are the risks?

As with all types of surgery, circumcision has some risks. However, complications from circumcisions carried out for medical reasons are rare in England.

Bleeding and infection are the most common problems associated with circumcision.

Having a circumcision may be painful for your son. Pain can be reduced and even eliminated with the use of safe and effective medications. Please discuss the use of pain relief with your healthcare team.

Complications can include:

- ▶ Damage to the tube that carries urine inside the penis (urethra), causing it to narrow and making it hard to pass urine.
- ▶ Accidental amputation of the head of the penis, which is very rare.
- ▶ A blood infection or blood poisoning (septicaemia).
- ▶ A decrease in sensation in the penis, particularly during sex.

What will happen on the day?

- ▶ Both parents should attend on the day to give consent as this is an important decision you are making on behalf of your son. Young people who are mature enough to understand the issues are allowed in UK law to have a voice in the decision.
- ▶ The healthcare professional will examine your son to check that the penis and genitals are fully formed and healthy. If there is any doubt at this stage, the operation will need to be deferred.
- ▶ The healthcare professional will explain the procedure to you and the aftercare your son will need.
- ▶ Local anaesthetic will always be used - babies feel pain just as much as older children and adults.
- ▶ Ask any questions you may have so that you feel confident knowing what to expect when you take your son home.

What if there are any problems afterwards?

- ▶ You should ensure you understand when and how to seek medical advice should any signs of infection or excess bleeding occur once your baby is home again. The healthcare professional will give you a leaflet to remind you what to do if there is a problem and a number to ring for further advice if needed.
- ▶ For post-operative advice you should contact the clinic where the procedure took place. You can also visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/circumcision-in-children
- ▶ Remember, if you are worried, you can always get help and advice from your GP or by calling 111 when your local practice is closed.



IN AN EMERGENCY!

If your baby appears very ill, blood is soaking through the nappy or if your baby cannot pass urine **take your baby straight to your local A&E department or call 999.**

Further information

For more information, visit www.nhs.uk

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Ak potrebuje te túto informáciu/tieto informácie v inom jazyku, kontaktujte

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