

Circumcision

A circumcision is a surgical procedure that involves removing the foreskin (skin covering the top of the penis)

Length of Surgery

Your child will be away from you for approximately 45 to 60 minutes.

Post Operatively

Some children may be distressed and upset when they return from theatre. This can be normal after an anaesthetic and they should settle after a short time. The nurse will monitor your child closely post-operatively, including an assessment of their pulse rate, breathing and any pain. Your child will need to stay post operatively in Day Surgery for a minimum of one hour depending on their recovery. They must be fully awake and eating and drinking before discharge. It is not normally necessary for your child to stay in hospital overnight. Your child may also be required to pass urine (wee) before you can go home. Your child may return from theatre with an Intravenous Cannula (IV drip) in their hand. The nurse will remove this before you go home. Sometimes the surgeon will put a dressing around the circumcised penis, or sometimes it will be covered with ointment. There may be some bleeding on the dressing, or in the child's nappy or underwear.

Pain management

The type of pain relief required after the operation depends on the degree of surgery. Your child will be given pain relief during their surgery and should be comfortable on return from theatre. Please speak to your nurse if you feel that your child is in pain. Your child may have a caudal epidural or penile nerve block for pain management. After a caudal epidural, your child will need to be closely watched as they may be unsteady on their feet. Some pins and needles in the lower half of the body also sometimes occurs after this form of pain relief. This should wear off after about 4-6 hours. Please refer to the 'Caudal Block' Information sheet for more information. On discharge, the nursing staff will give you a pamphlet regarding pain management at home – "Being Comfortable after Short Stay Surgery".

Eating & Drinking

Your child can usually start drinking as soon as they are fully awake after surgery. When drinking well, they will be able to start eating a light diet. Please check with your nurse before giving your child anything to eat or drink. Babies can breast or bottle feed straight away. Some children may experience nausea and vomiting after surgery. Please tell your nurse if your child feels nauseous or vomits. There is no need for a special diet after this surgery, but it is recommended that your child avoids fatty or junk food for approximately 24 hours after surgery.

At Home

Nausea and Vomiting

Do not be concerned if your child vomits once or twice after leaving hospital. If they vomit or feel sick, stop giving them food for about an hour. Then try a light diet, and see how much your child can manage without feeling ill. However, if your child keeps vomiting please seek medical attention by either calling your child's surgeon or your nearest emergency department.



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Activity

Your child should reduce their activities during the next 24 hours and be under adult supervision to help them fully recover from the anaesthetic and procedure. Your child should be ready to return to school/childcare/kindergarten after three to five days.

Wound Care

If the surgeon has put a bandage on the penis, this should fall off by itself, or in the bath. Sutures (stitches) are dissolvable, and will not require removal. There may be some crusting along the suture line for a few days after the operation and some bruising and swelling on the shaft of the penis. This can be present for up to a week. A slight clear ooze is normal for the first 1-2 days. These symptoms are normal but if you are concerned, please seek medical advice. To prevent your child's penis from sticking to their nappy or underwear, we suggest that you apply White Soft Paraffin (Vaseline™) to the front of the nappy or underwear to prevent the material sticking. You may also be prescribed some ointment to apply to your child's penis depending on the extent of the surgery performed or if there is an infection. Observe the wounds for general signs of infection. These include heat to the site, pus/ooze, foul smell odour, swelling, redness, fever or pain. If signs of infection are noticed, seek medical attention.

Bleeding

If bleeding occurs, sit your child down and apply firm, steady pressure to the area for 10 minutes with a clean cloth. Take the pressure off after 10 minutes and continue to watch the wound closely over the next 24 hours. ***If bleeding persists, apply pressure and seek immediate medical attention by calling an ambulance or taking your child to the nearest hospital.***

Follow Up Appointments

There is usually no follow up required following a circumcision. However depending on the reason for circumcision, an appointment may be needed to monitor your child. All Day Surgery patients will receive a follow up telephone call from a nurse the next day following surgery. This is to enquire on your child's post anaesthetic/surgery condition, post-operation recovery and any questions you may have about their care. It is also an opportunity for you to provide us with any feedback about your child's stay at the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH).

If you have any concerns after your child's discharge please telephone your private consultant, local GP or the WCH on (08) 8161 7000 and ask to speak to your surgical team.

For more information

Women's and Children's Hospital
72 King William Rd, North Adelaide SA 5006
Telephone (08) 8161 7000
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