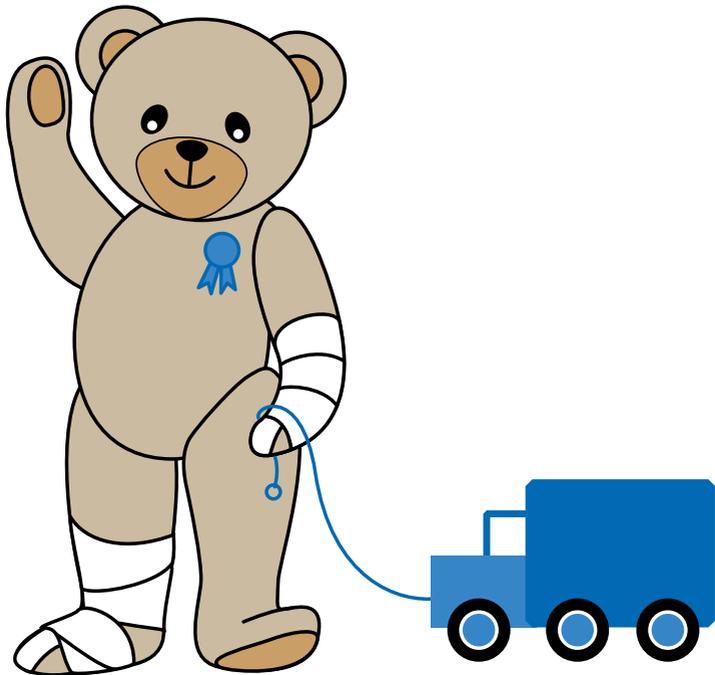


# Circumcision

Paediatric Day Surgery Unit



Patient information leaflet



## What is a Circumcision?

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A circumcision is an operation to remove the foreskin (the skin that covers the sensitive tip of the penis) and is performed when the foreskin is too tight to slide back (retract) over the penis. The operation will leave a small circle of stitches around the end of the penis. Therefore it will look as if the foreskin is always pulled back. The penis may look bruised or swollen for the first few days, this is perfectly normal. In 3-4 days scabs will begin to form. Although this is completely normal, occasionally the scabs can form over the opening so that your child might have difficulty in passing urine, or may spray urine. Gently rubbing Vaseline into the scabs will soften them so that they fall off without causing bleeding. The base of the penis may look swollen for up to 3-4 months and some children may have a fold of skin at the stitch line, underneath the penis - this will disappear as they grow. The penis may take 2-3 weeks before it begins to take on the 'normal' purplish appearance.

## What are the risks and possible complications associated with this operation?

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The most common complications are bleeding and infection.

Bleeding is usually stopped by applying extra pressure to the wound.

Infection of the wound can happen and if you have any concerns please see your GP.

If your child has difficulty in passing urine or the penis becomes very swollen please contact the Day Surgery Unit (DSU) **01483 406783** or Hascombe Ward **01483 464071**.

## Is there any alternative treatment?

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Antibiotics, anti fungal or anti-inflammatory ointments may be prescribed.

## Will my child have stitches?

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Children's stitches are usually dissolvable and do not need to be removed. They should start to dissolve within one to three weeks. During this time you may see small pieces of the stitch material poking out of the healing wound, don't be tempted to pull these. If the stitches cause your child pain or discomfort please contact your GP surgery for advice. Once the stitches have dissolved, the skin where they were may look a little lumpy at first, with some bunching of the skin. This will settle down in a month or so.

## What can my child wear?

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It is advisable to dress your child in loose clothing, such as jogging bottoms or loose shorts for the first couple of days. Some children prefer to just wear a large t-shirt. You may find that it is better for your child not to wear any underpants until they have sufficiently healed, otherwise the fabric may stick to the penis and cause unnecessary pain. If your child is in nappies, apply a layer of Vaseline to the inside of the nappy to prevent it sticking to the penis.

## Will it be painful?

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Some pain/discomfort maybe felt initially so give your child regular Paracetamol and Ibuprofen for pain relief according to their age. If your child needs anything stronger, this will be provided by the ward. Give regularly for the first 48 hours and then as necessary.

Next dose Paracetamol

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Next dose Ibuprofen

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## **When can my child go back to school/activity?**

It is advisable to keep your child off school for at least one week. Avoid boisterous activities such as riding a bike and contact sports for at least 1-2 weeks. It is not advisable for them to go swimming in either a swimming pool or the sea until they have completely healed.

## **General Practitioner's (GP) letter**

A letter will be sent to your child's GP giving brief detail of your child's admission. You will be given a copy of this on discharge in case of emergency.

## **Will my child need a follow-up appointment?**

If a follow up appointment is required this will be sent to you through the post.

## **Reference sources**

- [www.bmihealthcare.co.uk/treatment/treatmentdetail?pname=circumcision](http://www.bmihealthcare.co.uk/treatment/treatmentdetail?pname=circumcision)
- [www.surgerydoor.co.uk/advice/operation/circumcision-child/](http://www.surgerydoor.co.uk/advice/operation/circumcision-child/)





## Contact details

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**If you have any worries that are not covered by this information leaflet, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

### **Day Surgery Unit**

**Telephone:** 01483 406783, Monday–Friday, 8am–8pm

### **Hascombe Children’s Ward**

**Telephone:** 01483 464071 (24 hours)

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## PALS and Advocacy contact details

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Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

**Telephone:** 01483 402757

**Email:** [rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net)

**Opening hours:** 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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