



YOUR BABY BOY

Patient Information Booklet

*Leading, Learning,
Caring For You*

**Adapted from Canadian Pediatric Society
Queensway Carleton Hospital 2011 Parent Handbook**

GENERAL INFORMATION

The outside of the penis can be washed with the rest of your baby's bottom at each diaper change. The area underneath the foreskin does not need to be cleaned until the foreskin can be easily retracted.

The foreskin will gradually loosen over a period of years, and should be left alone until it can be easily pulled back. Never force the foreskin back. Forcing it back may harm the penis and cause pain, bleeding and possible scarring.

When the foreskin is easily retractable (age 3-17 years), it should be gently pulled back to allow the glans to be cleaned with soap and water. Always bring the foreskin back to its normal position after washing.

Circumcision

Circumcision is a surgical procedure performed by a physician to remove the layer of skin (called the foreskin) that covers the head of the penis. Local anesthetic is provided.

The Canadian Pediatric Society does not recommend routine circumcision for newborn baby boys. The Pembroke Regional Hospital does not provide inpatient newborn circumcisions. The procedure is no longer covered under OHIP.

If you are considering having your baby circumcised, speak with your family doctor about the risks. There will be a physician fee and it will be done on an outpatient basis.

Dr. Sylvie Cantin is currently the only doctor in the area providing this service. Ask the doctor caring for your baby while in the hospital for a referral to Dr. Cantin, unless you have already made arrangements through your family doctor.

Circumcision is a cultural tradition. There is no medical benefit to circumcise healthy baby boys. Statistically in Canada 32% of baby boys are circumcised with the rates steadily trending downward since the 1970's.

Care After a Circumcision

With each diaper change, pour a little warm water over your baby's penis or let it soak in a warm tub. Do not touch with wipes or a washcloth. Apply a large amount of Vaseline around the tip of the penis to keep it from sticking to the diaper. If the circumcised area does stick to the diaper, do not pull the diaper off – soak it off with warm water. Following the circumcision, a few drops of blood may be seen on the diaper. This is normal. The circumcised area will have a yellow covering within 24 hours. This covering is normal. Do not try to clean it off. It will disappear within 2 or 3 days. It may take up to 7 to 10 days for the penis to completely heal.

Contact your baby's care provider if any of the following occur:

- Excessive bleeding from the circumcision site
- Persistent redness, swelling or odor
- If your baby develops a fever

