



Circumcision Care for Infants

Pediatric Patient Education Handout

What Parents & Caregivers Need to Know

Circumcision is a common procedure. Healing usually takes 7–10 days. Proper care helps prevent infection and promotes healing.

What to Expect

- The tip of the penis may look red, swollen, or bruised
 - A yellowish film or coating may form — this is normal healing, not infection
 - Mild bleeding (a few drops) can happen the first day
 - Your baby may be fussy for a short time
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How to Care for the Area

Cleaning

- Gently clean with warm water only
- Pat dry — do not rub
- Avoid wipes with alcohol or fragrance until healed

Diapering

- Change diapers frequently
- Apply petroleum jelly (Vaseline®) to the tip of the penis or diaper with each change for 5–7 days
- This prevents sticking and reduces discomfort

Baths

- Sponge baths only for the first 24 hours
- After that, normal bathing is okay unless instructed otherwise

Pain Control

- Discomfort is usually mild
- If recommended by your provider, acetaminophen (Tylenol®) may be used
- Do not give medication unless advised by your pediatric provider

When to Call Your Pediatric Provider

Call if your baby has:

- Bleeding larger than a quarter-sized spot in the diaper or bleeding that won't stop
- Increasing redness or swelling after day 3
- Pus or foul-smelling drainage
- Fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ / 38°C)
- No urine within 8 hours after the procedure
- Severe fussiness or signs of pain not improving

Healing Timeline

- Days 1–3: Redness and swelling are common
- Days 4–7: Yellow film/scab may appear
- 7–10 days: Area should be mostly healed

Questions? – We understand parents may have questions or concerns. Please talk with your pediatric provider. We are happy to discuss this further.