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## Circumcision Information

### What is a circumcision?

The word circumcision means removal of the foreskin. The foreskin is trimmed away and the edges are sewn using small dissolvable stitches.

### Why do we do a Circumcision?

A circumcision is usually required in adults when the foreskin is scarred and can not be pulled back (phimosis), when it is extremely tight and painful when pulled back or difficult to pull forward again (paraphimosis). Sometimes the physician may want to take a biopsy (a small piece of skin tissue) of the penile gland or foreskin to be analyzed in the laboratories.

### What will happen if I do not have a circumcision?

If the foreskin is left untreated it can lead to recurrent episodes of infections of the foreskin (balanitis). You may get and discomfort during an erection and when having sexual intercourse. There may be a reduced urine flow due to the closure of the skin around the penile head.

### Is there an alternative?

The alternative to a circumcision is to leave the foreskin uncircumcised. To help relieve any discomfort and swelling pain relief medication can be prescribed. It must be remembered that if left untreated your problems will continue and may get worse.

### What can I expect during the procedure? How should I prepare?

The circumcision procedure is usually performed in the office. Your doctor will tell you if there is a need for you to have the procedure done under sedation in the hospital. The In-office operation is performed under a local anaesthetic. The procedure itself usually takes about 45 minutes. You may eat all meals as normal. If you are taking aspirin or blood thinning medications, these must be discontinued at least 7 days prior to the appointment. It is helpful for you to shave your penis and scrotum at home before the procedure.

### What happens after the operation?

- You may eat and drink normally after the operation.
- A light dressing is placed around the penis after the operation. This is to absorb the small amount of blood that may leak out from the wound which can cause it to stick to the underclothes if unprotected.
- You may experience discomfort during the first few times you pass urine this should settle within a few hours.
- Your wound may appear to be quite raw and swollen. This should start to settle down within a few days.
- Pain is not usually severe although erections can be painful in the first few days, so should be avoided for a couple of weeks. Pain relief medication is available and may be prescribed for you to take home.
- You may drive 24-48 hours after the operation

### Are there any complications following a Circumcision?

- If you notice your wound looks very red and swollen or you have a yellow (pus) discharge around the wound area you may have an infection. Please contact your doctor.
- You may find that one or two of the dissolvable stitches continue to remain 3 to 4 weeks after the operation and may need to be removed by your nurse.
- You may find a reduced or altered sensation to penis. Often making it more sensitive. This may or may not get better.
- Sometimes the wound continues to leak fluid or blood. If this happens try to apply pressure. If it does not stop please contact your doctor at 907-458-0700.