

Circumcision Information

What is circumcision?

Circumcision is a surgery performed to remove the foreskin of the penis.

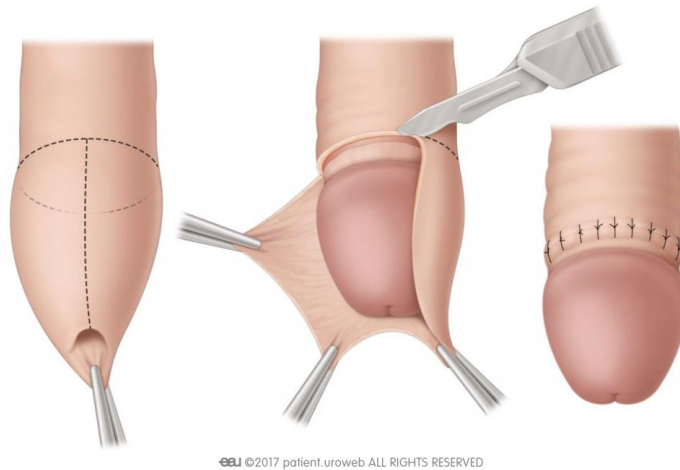
Why is circumcision performed?

Common reasons for circumcision include:

- Inability to retract or pull back the foreskin (phimosis)
- Recurrent inflammation or infection of the head of the penis or foreskin (balanitis)
- To remove skin diseases such as warts or pre-cancerous skin changes
- Circumcision is not performed for cosmetic reasons by urologists

What will my penis look like after circumcision?

A picture is worth a thousand words.



What should I expect after my circumcision?

If you had a general anesthetic, you require a drive home and to have an adult with you for 24 hours. Do not drive, operate machinery, drink alcohol, or make important decisions for 24 hours after surgery.

You will have discomfort (not severe pain), bruising, and swelling for 1-2 weeks after your circumcision. A small amount of bleeding from the incision is expected during this time. You may experience slight burning when you urinate for a few days after surgery. The head of your

penis will be very sensitive for the first few weeks after surgery. This typically resolves within a month. To help with pain after surgery, take acetaminophen (Tylenol) 975 – 1000 mg and ibuprofen (Advil) 400 mg every six hours for 2 days, then every six hours as needed. **If you have an allergy to one or both medications, do not take them. If you are on a blood thinner, aspirin, or have a history of stomach ulcers or kidney failure, do not take ibuprofen.** If your urologist gave you a prescription for pain killers, use them as directed. Wear what you feel is most comfortable.

If there is a dressing (wrap) on your penis, remove it the day after surgery. If the dressing is stuck to your penis, take a shower and allow it to get wet. This will make it easier to remove. If your dressing falls off early, do not panic. There is no need to put it back on.

You will see stitches under the head of your penis. They will dissolve, and the knots will fall off. This usually occurs within two weeks. If a stitch falls out early, do not panic. Your incision will heal. If a stitch takes longer to fall out, be patient, as they will eventually. If you have concerns, call your urologist.

It is acceptable to take a shower starting the day after surgery. Do not swim, go in a hot tub, or take a bath for the first two weeks after surgery.

For the first week after surgery, avoid strenuous activities, but feel free to go for walks and perform daily activities that you feel comfortable doing. After week one, you can ease yourself back into other activities, with a goal to be back at your full activity level within 2-3 weeks after surgery. If something hurts, listen to your body, and stop. Try again in a few days. **You may resume sexual activity, including masturbation, after four weeks have passed if your incision appears to be completely healed.** Your circumcision should not affect your ability to get an erection or ejaculate.

What are potential complications of circumcision?

Complications after circumcision are not common, but they can occur. Complications that may occur include:

- Wound infection –increasing pain and swelling in the penis, with skin becoming pink or red with pus coming from the wound. Fever may occur.
- Excessive bleeding – presents as a large amount of bleeding from the incision, or a large amount of bruising and swelling of the penis
- Difficulty with urination – this is not common.

If you feel you are experiencing a complication, you should contact your urologist. If they are unavailable, you should present to your local emergency department if you require immediate attention. Be sure to tell the nurses and doctors in the emergency department that you had a circumcision.