



Circumcision

Couples often ask about circumcision for their newborn boy. Here are some facts that may help you make your decision.

Circumcision is cutting away part of the foreskin, the skin that covers the glans, or head, of the penis. It is usually done before the baby leaves the hospital. Your pediatrician or family physician can offer you information about the risks and benefits of this procedure.

Circumcision is elective surgery, which means that it is a choice made by the parents on whether or not to have their son circumcised. Parents usually make their choice based on religious, cultural, and traditional factors.



Aftercare

If you opt not to circumcise your newborn son, you should wash the outside of the penis with soap and water.

No attempt should be made to retract (pull back) the foreskin, which may not be completely retractable until the child is three years old, or older. This is normal.