

Undergoing Circumcision or release of tight foreskin

Information for parents



Shipwreck Ward, QAH (023) 9228 6391

Specialist Support

If you require this leaflet in another language, large print or another format, please contact the Health Information Centre Tel: (023) 9228 6757, who will advise you.



Why is the operation necessary?

If your son is unable to retract his foreskin this can lead to the building up of dead skin cells underneath the foreskin. This can cause health and hygiene problems as an adult.

What does the operation involve?

There are two type of operation that may be performed:-

1. A cut into the foreskin which releases the tightness that is preventing the foreskin retracting. Provided this loosens the foreskin sufficiently, nothing further is required. If it does not, then a full circumcision is performed.
2. In some patients a full circumcision is the preferred operation. This will involve removal of the foreskin (approx. 1.5cm) and stitching the wound with dissolving stitches. Sometimes glue is used instead of stitches. These will fall out after 2-3 weeks.

Consent

We must by law obtain written **consent** to any operation beforehand. Staff will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign a consent form. Young people are presumed to be able to give consent depending on their maturity and the nature of the decision. Where a child is not competent to give consent, only a person (or body) with parental responsibility may consent on the child's behalf. More detailed information is available www.dh.gov.uk

After the operation

If the foreskin loosening operation has been performed, you will usually be given a tube of ointment. Twice a day, the foreskin should be fully retracted and the ointment smeared liberally on the underlying exposed part of the penis. This should be done for 10 days.

Following either operation, the penis will be swollen and bruised. Baths may be given after the first 24 hours. Any scab will fall off after 2-3 weeks. Loose underwear is advised.

Getting over the anaesthetic

Your son will be able to eat and drink normally. Start with a light diet. If there are any feelings of sickness, stick to clear fluids and dry biscuits until feeling better. Avoid sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks at first.

Further Care

- Any dressings or medicine that may be necessary will be given and explained to you before you go home
- Keep the area clean by giving a daily bath/shower for one week
- If a community nurse has been arranged to call on you, your named nurse will tell you and give you the appropriate information
- If your child is to have an out-patient appointment, the details will be posted to you

School and Play

Both may be started as soon as your son is comfortable, usually within 1 week. Swimming is allowed after 1 week.

Your child's GP

Your child's GP surgery has been informed of your child's admission today. You will be given a letter to take home which is for the GP should you need to call him/her to your home.

Contact details

If you have any queries or concerns please ring:

- Paediatric Department, A8 Shipwreck Ward, Queen Alexandra Hospital : Tel: (023) 9228 6391
- Your child's GP if you feel it necessary, or if you feel warrants it, you may attend the Emergency Department

Information we hold about you and your rights under the Data Protection Act

Please refer to the booklet 'Your Healthcare Information – Your Rights! Our Responsibilities!' for further guidance.

How to comment on your treatment

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer your questions. However, if you have any concerns you can also contact the Patient Experience Service on 0800 917 6039 or E-mail:

portsmouthhospitals.patientexperience@porthosp.nhs.uk

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www.porthosp.nhs.uk

Author: G Sutton

Produced: June 2014

Review: June 2016

Ref: Pae/059

Medical Illustration ref: 14/4712

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