



Caring for your child at home after a **CIRCUMCISION**

Dear Parents, your child has just had a circumcision and is ready to go home. A circumcision is a simple procedure in which the skin covering the tip of the penis, or foreskin, is removed. This following information will help ensure your child has a safe recovery after leaving the hospital.

Care for the surgical site

- Make sure the wound and penis are kept as clean as possible. As needed, gently wash the whole area with warm water and an unscented mild soap. Avoid over scrubbing or rubbing.
- If your child has a dressing, you might be asked to remove it at a certain time or it might come off by itself (for example, during the bath). Apply Polysporin® ointment to the penis after each bath.
- Check for bleeding every 2 hours today and once during the night.
If bleeding occurs, use gauze with Polysporin® to apply gentle pressure on the penis for 3 to 5 minutes. If not effective, bring your child to the hospital.
- Minimal oozing (spotting of blood) is normal. The area will be swollen for several days and yellowish membranes may cover the tip of the penis. This will gradually improve in 2-3 weeks.

Pain management

- Give acetaminophen (Tylenol® or Tempra®) every 4 hours if needed, but no more than 5 doses total in 24 hours.
Next dose may be given only at _____ hours.
- Other medications might be prescribed. **It is very important to follow the exact dosage and frequency prescribed.**
- Refer to other instructed pain management information.

When will life go back to normal?

- **Activity:** Quiet activities today with close supervision.
No bicycle, gym, rough play, or sports for 1-2 week(s), then gradual return to normal activities.
- **Bathing:** Sponge bath for the first 24 hours, then begin tub baths, for 15 to 20 min., 2 to 3 times a day for one week.
- **Diet:** Give water, apple juice, Popsicle, flat ginger ale or Jell-O for one to two hours. If tolerated, proceed to a soft diet such as soup, yogurt, ice cream and/or cereal. The day after surgery your child may take a normal diet.
- **School/Daycare:** May go back to school/daycare after 3-5 days.

When to call the doctor?

- Pain that does not lessen even after giving your child the prescribed medications.
- A fever of 38.5° C (101°F) or higher, 48 hours after the surgery.
- Redness and swelling that worsens after three days and remains after seven days.
- Persistent drainage or bleeding from the wound.
- Crusty fluid-filled sores

Follow-up

- For your next appointment please call 514- 934-1934, extension _____
- Clinic _____ Doctor _____
- Type of follow-up recommended: in clinic by phone other _____

Contact Information

IF CONCERNED, PLEASE CALL THE MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT 514- 934-1934 AND ASK FOR THE PHYSICIAN ON CALL FOR THE _____ SERVICE OR COME TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM OF THE HOSPITAL.

***Disclaimer:** Information provided by this pamphlet is for educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice or instruction of a professional healthcare practitioner, or to substitute for medical care. Contact a qualified healthcare practitioner if you have any questions concerning the care of your child.*