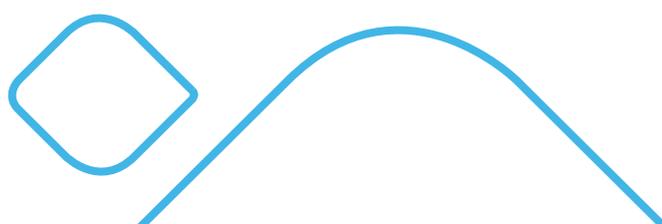


Having a **circumcision**

Information for patients

This leaflet explains:

- What does the procedure involve?
- What are the alternatives to this procedure?
- What happens during the procedure?
- What happens immediately after the procedure?
- Are there any side effects?
- What else should I look out for?
- Contact information



What does the procedure involve?

Circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin to treat disease or tightness of the foreskin.

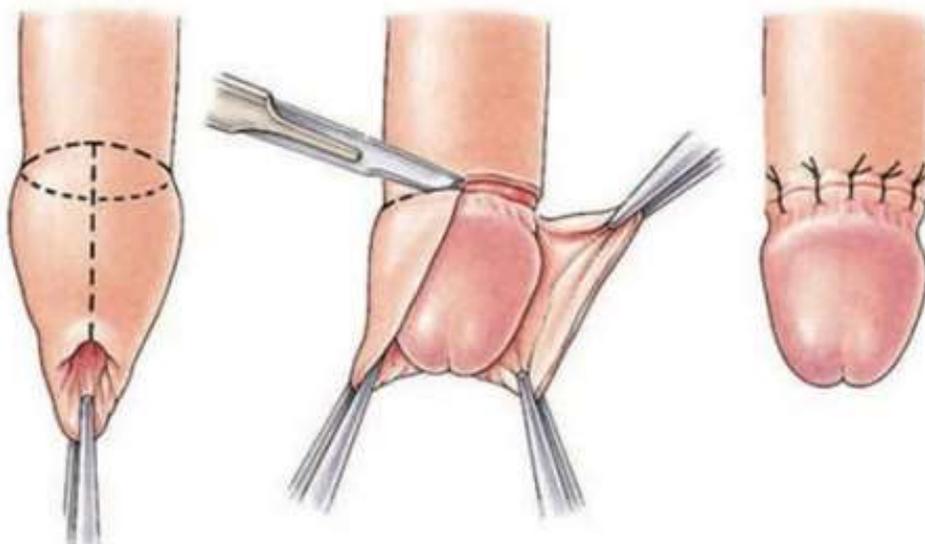
What are the alternatives to this procedure?

Certain creams can be applied to the foreskin in order to relieve inflammation and possibly avoid circumcision.

What happens during this procedure?

Most of these operations are carried out under local anaesthesia as a day case. The local anaesthetic is injected into the base of the penis. Occasionally a full general anaesthetic may be required and this will have been discussed with you in clinic by your surgeon. This local anaesthetic will last for four to six hours after the operation to minimise post-operative discomfort.

The entire foreskin will be removed using an incision just behind the head of the penis (pictured). This leaves the head of the penis completely exposed with no extra skin. The skin of the shaft of the penis is stitched to the skin of the head of the penis using a stitch material that will dissolve slowly over a few weeks and so won't need to be removed.



What happens immediately after the procedure?

It will be at least two weeks before healing occurs and you may return to work when you are comfortable enough. Most people require at least a week off work.

You should avoid sexual intercourse for a minimum of four weeks.

You may experience discomfort for a few days after the procedure and we would advise you to have paracetamol and ibuprofen at home prior to the operation. Absorbable stitches are normally used which do not require removal.



You should apply Vaseline to the tip of the penis and around the stitch line to prevent the penis from sticking to your underclothes and it is advisable to wear supportive underwear until healed. Passing urine will be painless and will not be affected by the operation.

Are there any side effects?

Most procedures have possible side effects. But, although the complications listed below are well recognised, most patients do not suffer any problems.

Common (greater than 1 in 10)

- Swelling of the penis lasting several days.

Occasional (between 1 in 10 and 1 in 50)

- Bleeding of the wound occasionally needing a further procedure.
- Infection of the incision requiring further treatment from your GP (symptoms of temperature, increased redness, throbbing, or excessive discharge at the site of the operation).
- Permanent altered or reduced sensation in the head of the penis.
- The absorbable stitches still present after three to four weeks, requiring removal.

Rare (less than 1 in 50)

- Scar tenderness.
- Failure to be completely satisfied with the cosmetic results.
- Occasional need for removal of excessive skin at a later date.
- Permission for biopsy of abnormal area on the head of the penis of malignancy is a concern.

What else should I look out for?

There will be marked swelling of the penis after a few days. This will last three to four days and will then subside but do not be alarmed because this is expected. However, if you develop a temperature, increased redness, throbbing, or drainage at the site of the operation, please contact your GP.

You will not normally be given a follow-up outpatient appointment after circumcision unless this is felt necessary by your surgeon.

Contact information and telephone numbers

If you have any concerns or need further advice please contact the Urology department at the Royal United Hospital, Bath.

During office hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm:-

If you have been in hospital within the last 2 weeks please ring our main hospital switchboard on 01225 428331 and ask for the Urology Nurse Practitioner on bleep 7727 or 7641.

Alternatively, please ring the urology nurses based in the out-patients department:-

- Via Urology Reception 01225 825990
- Urology Nurse Specialists 01225 824034

Please note the nurses' numbers have an answerphone as they may be in clinic but all answerphones are checked regularly and messages responded to.

During out of office hours please contact your GP Surgery for their twilight and out of hours service.

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
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01225 428331 | www.ruh.nhs.uk

If you would like this leaflet in email form, large print, braille or another language, please contact the Patient Support and Complaints team on 01225 825656.

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