

## Circumcision

### Introduction

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This information leaflet is intended for use of those patients undergoing a circumcision.

### What does the procedure involve?

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This is the surgical removal of the foreskin and is only indicated for disease or tightness of the foreskin itself.

### What are the alternatives to this procedure?

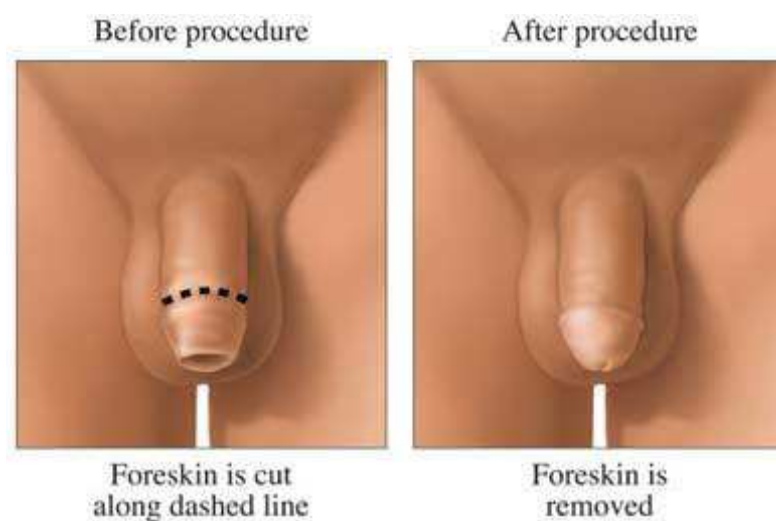
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Drugs to relieve inflammation and avoid circumcision.

### What should I expect before the procedure?

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You will usually be admitted on the same day as your surgery. You will normally receive an appointment for pre-assessment before your admission, to assess your general fitness and to perform some baseline investigations. After admission, you will be seen by your Consultant. You will be asked not to eat or drink for 6 hours before surgery and, immediately before the operation.



What is done during a circumcision: the foreskin is removed to leave the glans, or head of the penis, bare.

## What happens during the procedure?

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A full general anaesthetic (where you will be asleep throughout the procedure), a spinal anaesthetic (where you are awake but unable to feel anything from the waist down) or a local anaesthetic injection around the penis may be used. All methods minimise pain; your anaesthetist will explain the pros and cons of each type of anaesthetic to you, or if you have already discussed this with your urologist and planned to have a local anaesthetic in the clinic then this method will be used.

Local anaesthetic is also injected into the base of the penis to aid pain control after the operation. The entire foreskin will be removed using an incision just behind the head of the penis. This leaves the head of the penis completely exposed with no redundant skin.

## What happens immediately after the procedure?

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You may experience discomfort for a few days after the procedure but painkillers will be given to you to take home. Absorbable stitches are normally used which do not require removal. Vaseline, or ointment provided to you, should be applied to the tip of the penis and around the stitch line to prevent the penis from adhering to your underclothes and it is advisable to wear light clothing for 2-3 days. Passing urine will be painless and will not be affected by the operation. The average hospital stay is less than 1 day.

## Are there any side-effects?

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Most procedures have a potential for side-effects. You should be reassured that the majority of patients do not suffer any problems after this procedure.

### **Common (greater than 1 in 10)**

- Swelling of the penis lasting several days
- Temporary increased sensitivity of the head of the penis

### **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
- Permanent altered or reduced sensation in the head of the penis
- Persistence of the absorbable stitches after 3-4 weeks, requiring removal

### **Rare (less than 1 in 50)**

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

## What should I expect when I get home?

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It will be at least 10 days before healing occurs. You may return to work when you are comfortable enough. Most people require at least a week off work. You should refrain from sexual intercourse for a minimum of 4 weeks.

## What else should I look out for?

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There will be marked swelling of the penis after a few days. This will last up to 7 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 doctor.

Procedure Code for insured patients: N3030



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*For your peace of mind*

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