

CIRCUMCISION AT ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

At St. Michael's Hospital, we treat circumcision as a surgical procedure performed by trained doctors.

Before the procedure, we ask you to read the information below or watch our video about circumcision. You will need to sign a consent form before the procedure.



Pain Control

We use 2 forms of pain control during the procedure:

- Your child will get a small amount of highly concentrated sugar (24% sucrose), by mouth. Many research studies have proven that this is an effective painkiller.
- Your child will get an injection of local anaesthetic (lidocaine). This is done just above and to the side of the penis. Once the freezing starts to work, the procedure becomes pain-free.

Most babies won't need any more pain control after the procedure. For the first 24 to 48 hours, if your baby is fussy or irritable, we suggest giving them acetaminophen (brand names: Tempra, Children's Tylenol). Your child's doctor or nurse will tell you how much to give, if needed.



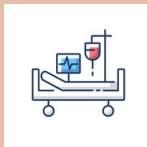
What are the risks of the procedure?

Infection and bleeding are the most common risks with any surgical procedure. Bleeding is rare after circumcision (1 in 100 babies have bleeding that needs more treatment). To reduce these risks, we:

- Make sure the circumcision is done under sterile conditions (similar to an operating room)
- Have you and your child stay up to 1 hour after the procedure. We watch for bleeding to make sure your baby is safe to go home

Skin adhesions are another risk that can develop weeks or months after the procedure. This is when surrounding skin sticks to the head of the penis. These skin adhesions are cosmetic and will eventually stretch over time.

- Parents can help prevent them by following care instructions for the first few months after the circumcision.
- Other treatments include using steroid creams, and if needed, another surgical procedure.



How is the procedure performed?

The procedure takes about 15 minutes, using a device called a Bell Clamp. There will be no stitches, staples or plastic to be removed. You can watch our video to see a demonstration.



After care

A nurse will show you how to care for the circumcised area at home. You can also find more information in our video and handout, "Caring For Your Baby After Circumcision". It usually takes 5 – 10 days to heal.

If you have questions or concerns at any time, please feel free to ask either the doctor or nurse caring for your child.