

What to Do After Your Baby Is Circumcised

There are a few steps to follow after your baby's circumcision to make sure your baby heals well:

1. Check to make sure your baby pees within 6 hours after the circumcision. If your baby has not peed in 6 hours, please go to your nearest emergency department.

2. Watch for any signs of infection. It is normal to see a small amount of redness and swelling. But you should take your baby to the emergency department right away if the redness or swelling continues to get worse, if you notice any foul smelling liquid coming from the wound or if your baby has a fever with a temperature over 38.0 degrees Celsius.

3. After the circumcision, your baby's penis will be wrapped with a ribbon gauze. Remove this ribbon after 24 hours if it doesn't fall off on its own. Once it comes off, use Vaseline and gauze with every diaper change – in the same way we showed you in the clinic.

If the ribbon gauze doesn't come off easily, it's okay to use a slight tug. If it still doesn't come off, soak one of the regular gauze pads and place it on the ribbon. This will help it unwrap.

If you see any fresh bleeding, use a gauze pad to apply pressure for 2 minutes. Once the bleeding stops, use the gauze and Vaseline and put a diaper on. Re-check the diaper in 10 minutes to make sure there is no more bleeding. If the bleeding will not stop after you use pressure, go to your nearest emergency department.

4. Continue to use Vaseline and a gauze pad with each diaper change until your baby's penis heals. This usually takes about 5 to 10 days.

For the first 2 to 3 days, use a large amount of Vaseline, and then use less and less. Make sure that you are using enough Vaseline so that the penis is not sticking to the gauze/diaper. Just note that using a lot of Vaseline can cause a diaper rash. Check your baby's bum for any redness and use a zinc based cream on your baby's bum if it is red. Wipe off any excess Vaseline during a diaper change before applying the new gauze and Vaseline.

5. You can bathe your baby 48 hours after the circumcision. You can sponge bathe your baby or bathe them in water. It's good to clean your baby's penis, but be careful not to move the penis too much because it is still healing.

6. Comfort your baby in the ways you normally do. If this isn't enough to help your baby settle or there are signs that your baby is in pain, you can use Infant Tylenol (acetaminophen). Give your baby 0.5 millilitres every 4-6 hours as needed.

7. It is also important to prevent your baby's surrounding skin from sticking to the penis. Over the first 1 to 3 months, many babies start to have fat pad that can surround the penis. The penis looks like it 'sinks' below the surrounding fat pad and skin. The surrounding skin may push back up over the head of the penis. This can cause the skin to stick to the head of the penis (also called skin adhesions).

To help prevent this, use two fingers at the base of the penis and push down the fat pad skin, releasing the head of the penis. Put a small amount of Vaseline on the head of the penis while doing this and release. You can do this 1-2 times daily for several months after the procedure. If skin continues to stick to the head of the penis, get care from your regular doctor. They may prescribe a steroid cream which 'unsticks' this skin over time.

