



# Circumcision

## What is circumcision?

Circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin that typically covers the head of the penis. This excess skin sometimes can cause discomfort if it becomes prone to inflammation or infection. Some men will choose circumcision for personal, religious, or cosmetic reasons.

The procedure is performed under local or general anesthesia, using a scalpel to remove the excess skin, and stitches to close the resultant incision.

Alternatives to this procedure include topical steroids, which may have limited efficacy. Anticipated benefits include the resolution of the problems the foreskin was causing.

## What are the risks and typical side effects?

**Bleeding.** As with any operation there will be some bleeding, but is usually mild along the suture line. This may persist to some degree for a day or two, rarely longer. Bruising is common along the shaft of the penis, sometimes quite pronounced, but will resolve in time.

**Infection.** Skin infection rates are less than 5%.

**Poor wound healing.** Abnormal scarring is unusual, but could result in a wider than normal scar. This is more likely to occur in the setting of inflamed tissue.

**Anesthetic and other risks.** Significant events such as heart attack, stroke, even death may occur as a result of any anesthetic, though such risks are extraordinarily low, especially if properly evaluated by your primary physician before surgery if indicated.

## **What are preparations for surgery?**

Please have nothing to eat or drink after midnight prior to your surgery. If you take blood thinners, your surgeon will discuss the possible cessation of this medication prior to your surgery.

## **What happens during the surgery?**

You usually will have either a general or local anesthesia. The surgery typically takes between 20-40 minutes.

## **What happens after the surgery?**

You will go home the same day following surgery, and you will require someone to drive you from the hospital. Often, your doctor will wrap the penis in the operating room, and will review with you plans for the dressing removal.

## **Resuming activities**

You can go back to work when you feel able, usually within 5-7 days, though this depends on the nature of your work. You may drive when you feel able and are not under the influence of any medications. No sexual activity for 6 weeks.

## **Follow-up**

Your doctor will arrange a follow-up visit, to ensure you are healing appropriately.

For any concerns do not hesitate to call our office for advice or instruction.