

Circumcision - post operative care

Dressings:

There are one or two pieces of white gauze loosely wrapped around or over the penis. These should come off automatically at the first nappy change. Gently lift off the *greasy square* (about 2 x 2cm) of yellow-tinted gauze (it may have fallen off already with the other white gauze). Another piece of white gauze is wrapped round the penis; this should float off at the first bath, as will a candyfloss-like fluffy dressing.

Under this is the ribbon gauze which will gradually unravel over ten to fourteen days. Do not pull it off or allow anyone else to as it will cause pain and bleeding. As it unravels, trim it off with clean scissors. By the time it comes off completely, the wound should be nearly healed and needs no dressing. However if the ribbon gauze comes off in the first 24 hours, call me. If after 24 hours, simply reapply the fluffy dressing provided and cover with gauze. This replacement is only needed for one day and will all come off in the bath the next day. Replace with a band-aid.

Apply liberal amounts of Vaseline to the end of the penis at each nappy change for the first week, cover loosely with gauze.

To look out for:

- Bleeding: if there is fresh bleeding, call me on my cellphone or at home on 04 3850046. Bleeding after the first 24 hours is rarely significant, but call me if you are concerned.
- Infection. This is rare. If there is a bad odour arising from the wound or if there is a discharge of pus or if there is redness around the penis or if your baby has a fever or is in any way unwell, please see your GP promptly.

The end of the penis will be quite swollen and red for several days. This is normal. Redness at the base of the penis, near the abdomen is not normal; call your GP

If and when the dressing comes off, don't worry if there is a gap (ie a wound) between the penis skin and the head of the penis. This is normal and will heal rapidly

First bath:

This should be at 24 hours (you can fully immerse the penis) and daily thereafter. On the first day, just sponge baby.

Painkillers:

Please administer baby paracetamol eg Panadol or Pamol according to your baby's weight, beginning as soon as you get home and then at six hourly intervals for the first two days. Thereafter if you think your baby is sore.

Please do not hesitate to call me at any time on 0274 434994 if you have any questions or concerns.