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## Your child's circumcision

**Paediatric Urology,  
Nicholls Ward**

**Information  
for parents**

This leaflet provides you with information about your child's circumcision at St George's Hospital and what you should expect before, during and after the operation.

### **What is a circumcision?**

Circumcision is an operation where the end of the foreskin is removed.

### **Why do patients need this procedure?**

Your child may have a circumcision because of tightness, ballooning or inflammation of the foreskin, or because they have a skin condition called balanitis xerotica obliterans (BXO).

### **Do patients need general anaesthetic?**

Your child will have a general anaesthetic and in the vast majority of children who are otherwise well, there is no reason for blood tests or investigations to be done prior to the operation.

### **What happens during the procedure?**

You will be able to bring your child into the theatre and be there while they drift off to sleep. You will then receive a pager that will notify you that your son is waking up after the operation.

### **Are there any risks?**

Occasionally the surgery wound can bleed, especially within the first few hours but this does settle. Sometimes if bleeding does not stop your child may need to return to theatre shortly after the operation to have this looked at but this is extremely uncommon.

Too much or too little skin may be removed during the operation but this is rare. There is also a small risk of infection with a procedure

like a circumcision. If you are concerned about anything please contact your GP or the surgical team for assessment (details overleaf).

### **How long will it take to recover?**

There may be some redness, swelling and discomfort that can last for quite a number of days, but this does settle. The stitches will absorb and go away by themselves in around two weeks. It is not unusual for the surgeon to use tissue glue which can also take around two weeks to absolve.

### **How do I care for my son when he gets home?**

You will need to keep the area dry and clean for five days following the procedure.

### **Does the patient need any medication?**

Your son won't need any specific prescribed medication after the operation. However, if there is an abnormality of the foreskin and some scarring already present, the tissue will be sent for histological review. If there is the evidence of BXO your child may require treatment with mild steroid cream after they have had the operation.

### **And finally...**

The vast majority of children who have routine circumcisions done at St George's Hospital do extremely well with very little complications. Patients are very happy with the results, experience very little pain and are extremely comfortable afterwards.

We aim to ensure this procedure stress-free for parents and their children and are here to support and advise the family where possible.