



Care After Your Son's Circumcision

Once your baby's circumcision is complete, a Vaseline gauze dressing is usually applied around the circumcision site. This dressing sometimes will fall off after a few hours. If it stays on until the next day, then it should be removed after 24 hours by gently unravelling the gauze completely. The gauze is coated in Vaseline so it shouldn't stick.

The first few times that your baby pees, he may fuss a bit as there may be some stinging. The first 2 days after the procedure, diaper changes are a bit more sensitive too. When your son is diapered and swaddled, he shouldn't be in any pain and should eat and act normally. It is similar to having a wound on one's arm. When the dressing is being changed, the area is sensitive. When the dressing is on and nobody is touching it, there is minimal discomfort.



To keep the healing circumcision from sticking or getting irritated on the diaper, apply a generous coating of Vaseline on the front of the diaper and the penis. The problem with applying Vaseline to the front of a diaper is that you are putting a water repellent layer on something that is usually very water absorbent. As a result, you will notice a lot of "leak-throughs" when the baby pees. As a solution, some parents choose to put a 2nd, slightly larger (size 1) diaper on top of the Vaseline coated one. Rest assured once, the circumcision is healed, you can stop the Vaseline and then the diapers will be absorbent again.

It is important that as the penis heals that the remaining skin of the shaft be kept behind the head of the penis. In some cases, the head of the penis will tend to slip under the remaining skin of the shaft. If this happens, then during diaper changes, gently press on both sides of the base of the penis and press down. When the head pops out, then apply Vaseline to keep it from adhering there. Check this at every diaper change until fully healed.

Occasionally there may be a drop or two of blood in the diaper, during the healing process. Not to worry; this is normal. If there are more than a few drops (a blood stain bigger than a quarter for example) then call the office or the advice nurse. This is not very common, however.

As the penis heals, there will usually be a yellowish coating in patches around the wound site. This is normal and is part of the healing process (like when you skin your knee.) Oftentimes parents will mistake this for an infection and worry. Infected circumcisions are VERY rare; so rare that I have never seen one.

In general it takes about a week or so for the circumcision to fully heal. When the site doesn't look raw or goopy, then you can stop the Vaseline and let the final healing process continue. Still check a few times a day that the head of the penis can easily be expressed out from the surrounding shaft skin. There may be some swelling around the circumcision site that persists for 2-3 weeks. This will resolve slowly on its own.

If you have any questions after the circumcision or if something doesn't "look right" then please call the office and ask.

--Be Well

Drew Nash, MD