Caring for Your Child
After Circumcision

Appearance

- After the circumcision, your child’s penis may be red, swollen, and bruised after the dressing is removed. This is normal.

- As your child begins to heal, the skin may change in color and consistency. It may look red, yellow and/or crusty.

- Your child may have a small amount of bleeding at his surgical site. It is normal to see a few drops of blood on the diaper. Check your child’s penis when you arrive home. If it is bleeding, you will need to apply pressure to the area (squeeze gently). Usually, five minutes of pressure will be enough to control bleeding. If this does not work, apply pressure for 10 minutes more. If you are not able to stop the bleeding, call the hospital at the number listed below.

Dressing

- Your child may have a small dressing over his penis. If the dressing falls off, you do not need to replace it. Your surgeon will tell you when to remove the dressing. You can remove the dressing by soaking your son in a warm bath, unless otherwise instructed. You should give him a bath with clear water to keep the area clean. Do not use soap for 2-3 days after the procedure, it will cause burning.

- After the dressing is off, apply petroleum jelly (Vaseline) to the inside of your son’s diaper so that his penis does not stick to the diaper. If his penis does stick to his diaper, soak the diaper off in the tub.

- To prevent adhesions (reattachment of the skin), it is important that you press on your baby’s pre-pubic area (at the base of the penis between the belly and the penis) with your fingers. This will fully expose your baby’s penis. Apply Vaseline around the circumcision site. You may need to continue doing this with each diaper change or after bathing until your child outgrows his baby fat pad.

Pain Management

- Your surgeon will prescribe pain medication to be sure that your child is comfortable. The directions for the medications will be reviewed with you before your discharge.
Activity

Your child may not ride straddle toys (bikes, walkers, swings) for 2 full weeks after surgery. You should continue to use your car seat.

- Your surgeon will tell you when your child may swim in a pool.
- He may return to school when comfortable, usually within 3-5 days.
- Your surgeon will tell you when he may return to gym class or sports.

Bowel Movements

Your child should have regular bowel movements. Give him juices, fruits, and vegetables to prevent straining. Do not let your child get constipated. If he does not have a bowel movement within 24 hours after surgery you may give a pediatric glycerin suppository. These are available without a prescription, and should be given as directed on the bottle.

Call the hospital if you have any questions or if your son experiences any of the following:

- You see any signs of infection: redness along the incision site, increased swelling, and foul smelling drainage from incision
- Your child's pain worsens or is not relieved by Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- There is bleeding from the incision that does not stop after 10 full minutes of gentle pressure. (A small ooze of blood from the incision the first day or two is normal.)
- Your child has a temperature of 101.5°F by mouth or 102.5°F rectally
- You have any questions or concerns

Phone Numbers:

- Your child’s surgery was performed by a urologist. If you have any questions or concerns, please call:
  
  Monday-Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm: 215-590-2754

  Weekends, Evenings, Holidays: 215-590-1000. Ask to speak with the Urology Doctor on call.

- Your child’s surgery was performed by a general surgeon. If you have any questions or concerns, please call:

  General Surgery: 215-590-2730, 24 hours a day, every day of the week.