



The Portland Hospital
for Women and Children

CIRCUMCISION OF THE NEWBORN





WHY CIRCUMCISE YOUR BABY BOY?

Circumcisions are commonly performed for reasons pertaining to religion, culture, custom, or hygiene. At the Portland Hospital circumcision is performed up to 8 weeks following delivery.

ABOUT THE OPERATION

The principal method used at the Portland hospital is the plastibell method to remove the baby boy's foreskin (prepuce). Please discuss the proposed method with the consultant performing the circumcision before the procedure is performed as there are also other methods which can be used.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

The Portland Hospital offers inpatient and outpatient alternatives for Circumcision. The *In-Patient Service* is for babies prior to discharge and the *Out-Patient Service* is for babies already discharged from the Portland, or an alternative hospital.

DURATION

This is a very short procedure taking only 2-3 minutes to perform a circumcision as an inpatient. If this is done as an outpatient appointment you should allow approximately 1 hour for consultation, local anaesthetic application, surgery and post operative time.



PAIN RELIEF

This is an important part of circumcision. We try to ensure that your baby is as comfortable as possible during the procedure and to minimise the pain he may experienced. Local anaesthetic cream is applied to the foreskin before the circumcision which helps with discomfort to your baby.

Please ask your surgeon about the method of pain relief proposed for your baby's procedure. Following circumcision the babies generally settle very quickly. Usually crying stops when his nappy is put on, and he has been given a good cuddle and feed.

WHAT TO EXPECT & DO AFTER CIRCUMCISION

- The circumcision area heals quickly.
 - Plastibell ring usually comes off between day 3 and day 8 postoperatively.
 - You may notice that the head of the penis may be red and be swollen, especially when the ring comes off but the swelling will subside.
 - The first time your baby passes urine, he may cry or seem to be slightly irritable.
 - Remove your son's nappies carefully until the plastibell ring has come off.
 - If his penis is soiled with faeces, clean him with a gauze dipped in warm water (do not use cotton wool).
 - Do not apply creams or powders to the circumcision until the ring has come off.
 - Passing urine will not affect healing.
 - You may bath your baby the day following circumcision.
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FOLLOW UP & EMERGENCIES

If you want your son to be reviewed by the consultant please arrange an appointment for him to be seen. In an emergency please contact the surgeon who performed the procedure, or action the emergency procedure explained to you by your surgeon.

FEEES

Hospital fees vary depending on whether the procedure is carried out on an outpatient or inpatient basis and the anesthesia used. Please contact the reservation department on 020 7390 6037 for further information. Consultant's fees and methods of payment are available directly from the consultant.

CHOOSING A CONSULTANT

Several consultants at The Portland Hospital perform circumcisions. These consultants have held or do hold consultant positions in NHS University Hospitals and teaching hospitals. For a list of consultants carrying out circumcisions please visit www.theportlandhospital.com or contact the enquiry line on 0207 390 8020.

HOW TO BOOK...

For outpatient bookings or general enquiries please contact The Portland Hospital Enquiry Line on 020 7390 8020 or if an inpatient then please discuss with your attending midwife.

The Portland Hospital for Women and Children, 205-209 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5AH
Portland Hospital Enquiry Line: +44 (0) 20 7390 8020 Hospital Switchboard: +44 (0) 20 7580 4400
