

The dressing will usually fall off within 24 hours. In a small percentage of patients it does not. In these instances gently soak it off and do not physically pull it off. It may take a couple of soaks to encourage it to come away.

Your child/young person's operation will be closed with dissolvable sutures, which do not require removing; these will take two to three weeks to disappear. Your child/young person should not bathe the area for 48 hours and then no long hot soaks in the bath thereafter until wounds are healed.

There may be minor oozing of blood from the wound, this is usually short lived, but may take a week to settle down.

Your child/young person should rest at home for the next day or two, and should not take part in any physical sporting activity until the penis is healing well and looks dry. This may take around 10 – 14 days.

Your child/young person should refrain from school for 1 week and no swimming for up to 3 weeks or until the sutures fall off.

What if I have any concerns? Things to look out for include a persistent temperature, increased swelling around the operation site resulting in your child/young person unable to pass urine, throbbing or any pustular or green drainage at the site.

If you are concerned about your child/young person's or their wound please contact a healthcare professional for advice.

Helpful Contact Numbers:

Arthur Levin Day Surgery Unit
Weekdays 8am – 6pm: 01553 613555
Rudham Ward 24 hour 01553 613844

In the first 48 hours following surgery you can contact the Urology secretaries for advice on 01553 613613

Alternatively out of hours you can attend Accident & Emergency.

NHS Online 111
Emergencies 999

Feedback

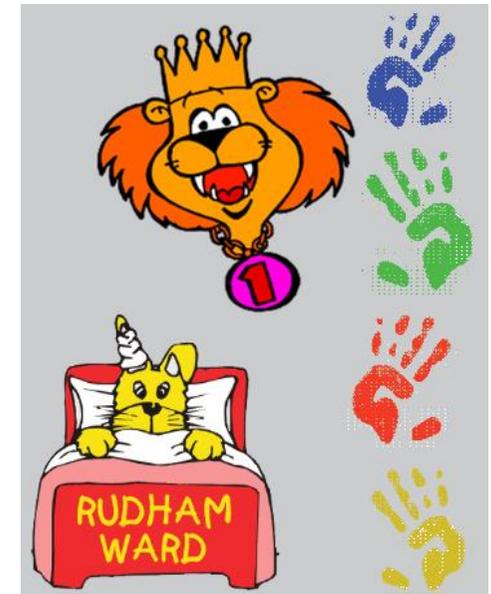
We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care of treatment, please speak to a member of staff or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS):

Telephone: 01553 613351 or 01553 613343
Email: pals@qehkl.nhs.uk
Letter: PALS, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust, Gayton Road, King's Lynn PE30 4ET

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.

Circumcision

Paediatrics



This document can be provided in different languages and formats. For more information please contact the department where you are/were seen.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust
Gayton Road, King's Lynn PE30 4ET
Tel: 01553 613613

Why does my child/young person need a circumcision? Circumcision is advised in boys with a history of infections of the foreskin.

It is also often advised in boys with a very tight scarred foreskin (called BXO Balanitis Xerotica Obliterans) that cannot be pulled back.

There are potential risks with any operation and these will be discussed with you when you sign the consent form. Whilst rare these include bleeding, infection and wound problems.

What is a circumcision? This is an operation that removes the sleeve of skin around the tip of the penis, called the foreskin.

A circumcision will change the appearance of the penis, and it is important to discuss this with your child/young person before the operation to prepare them. They may not need to know everything but it is often better to be prepared.

What happens before the operation? Doctors and Nurses will explain the operation in more detail and discuss any worries you may have. If your child/young person has any medical problems, including allergies, please tell the doctors about these.

Your child will be required to remain Nil by Mouth before the operation and your appointment letter will explain this.

The operation: A Circumcision is normally carried out as a day case, so your child should be able to return home on the same day.

During the operation, the foreskin is cut away and sutures are used to support the cut skin. These sutures are dissolvable and do not need to be taken out. They make take several weeks to dissolve completely.

A dressing is used to cover the wound in the first instance.

Local anaesthetic or numbing medicines may be given during the operation to control pain and discomfort.

What happens afterwards? After the operation your child/young person will return to the ward with you to wake up fully from the anaesthetic. Once they are assessed as safe, feel comfortable and have had a drink, you will soon be able to take your child/young person home. Ideally they will be asked to pass urine, if they cannot manage this, it is very important that your child/young person pass urine within 24hours of the operation. If this is not achieved you must seek urgent medical attention.

It is important to talk to your child/young person about the change in the appearance of their penis. It is normal, after circumcision, for the penis to look red, swollen, bruised for several days.

The length of stay in hospital depends on how quickly your child recovers; a small proportion of children will require an overnight stay, we will support you with this, and inform you at the earliest opportunity should this become likely.

Looking after your child/young person at home: It is important that your child or young person can pass urine, normally and regularly. To encourage this your child should drink plenty of fluids.

Your child/young person must pass urine within the first 24 hours following their operation. If they do not or are unable to, please seek medical advice.

To prevent discomfort please dress your child/young person in loose fitting clothes for the journey home, and for the next few days.

Close fitting underwear can reduce the feelings of hypersensitivity they will feel from the newly exposed skin.

Please be mindful of close fitting clothes sticking to wet areas of the wound when removing garments.

Babies should, where possible, spend some without their nappy on.

Local anaesthetic cream can be applied to the tip of the penis 3 – 4 times a day alternatively Vaseline® can be used. Vaseline® used liberally can also reduce the feelings caused by hypersensitivity, and reduce the chances of raw areas sticking to clothing.