

Corrective foreskin surgery or circumcision in children

Wound care

The wound is closed with absorbable stitches that will dissolve in 1–2 weeks. After the operation, the penis should be rinsed with running water every time after going to the toilet. Rinsing under a warm shower also helps if the child finds it painful to urinate. After showering, some of the oil you were given to take home from the hospital is applied to the tip of the penis, at least three times a day for a week. There is no need to cover the wound area. Bruising, slight swelling or wound exudate may appear in the wound area for several days. This is part of the normal recovery process. Good hygiene must be ensured by changing underpants every day. If the child is still in nappies, they should be changed frequently. The doctor will give you instructions on foreskin stretching depending on the type of procedure your child has had. It is very important to stretch the foreskin after corrective surgery. Stretching is performed once a day. During the first week, the top of the glans penis (penis head) will become visible; during the second week, the foreskin should pull back comfortably to reveal the glans penis. No stretching is performed after circumcision.

Pain management

Towards the end of the procedure the wound area is anaesthetised with a long-acting local anaesthetic, which minimises pain on the day of the procedure. The wound is usually painful for a few days; during this time the child should be given pain medication on a regular basis.

Physical activity

For two weeks following surgery, only light physical activity is allowed. The doctor will write a certificate to exempt your child from physical education and recreational sports.

Recovery at home

The child needs rest and adult supervision on the day of surgery. No changes in diet are required after the procedure. The child may go back to daycare or school 3–4 days after the procedure if the pain is under control.

Please get in touch if

- increasing warmth, redness or swelling appears in the wound
- there is a lot of bleeding from the wound
- the pain gets worse despite pain medication
- the child has difficulty passing urine
- the child has a fever above 38°C

Contact information

Paediatric Surgery Outpatient Clinic
Monday to Friday 8 am–2 pm
Tel. 02 627 7026

Day Surgery Unit
Monday to Friday 8 am–5 pm
Tel. 02 627 3840

Paediatric ward
Tel. 02 627 6512

Satasairaala
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