

## Information About Circumcision

Circumcision is a surgical procedure commonly performed on newborn boys in the United States. The surgery removes the layer of skin (called the foreskin) that covers the head (glans) of the penis. It is an optional procedure that is performed by a physician within the first few days after delivery only if desired by the parents.

**Possible reasons for circumcision:** Many newborns are circumcised based on cultural, religious, or ethnic traditions. In 1999, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released new recommendations stating the benefits of circumcision are not significant enough for the AAP to recommend circumcision as a routine procedure.

### Benefits:

**Urinary tract infections:** A three to seven times increased risk of urinary tract infection is seen in uncircumcised male infants but the risk is still low (about 1 in 100).

**Penile Cancer:** Penile cancer is very rare, regardless of circumcision status (1 per 100,000). The risk is probably 3 times higher in uncircumcised men.

**Sexually transmitted diseases:** It is unclear whether circumcision decreases the risk of sexually transmitted diseases.

**Risks:** Every surgery carries some risk; however, complications of circumcision are rare. When they do happen, they include:

**Injury to the penis:** This is the most common complication. It could mean taking off "too little" or "too much" foreskin. This might require another surgery at a later date. Rarely there is injury to the head (glans) requiring immediate repair by a pediatric urologist

**Bleeding:** Occurs about 1 in 1000 circumcisions

**Infection:** Occurs less often than bleeding

**Pain:** If anesthesia is not used (our policy is to give local anesthesia for all circumcisions)

**\*Alternatives to newborn circumcisions:** Circumcisions can be performed on older boys and men under general anesthesia.

I understand it does not prevent any medical disease and is, in most instances, an optional procedure. I also understand that the risks of the procedure include, but are not limited to, infection, bleeding, damage to surrounding structures, and removal of too much or too little foreskin. These complications could lead to a need for surgical intervention in the future. I certify that I have read and fully understand this informational form, which has been preceded by an explanation from my physician. I acknowledge and am satisfied that I have been adequately informed concerning material risks and possible complications, the benefits and alternatives, if any, of this procedure including the likely outcome if the procedure is not done and specifically consent to such.

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

MD Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_