Information and advice after a circumcision
Information for patients
Today you have had a procedure called circumcision, where your foreskin has been removed. As the foreskin has been trimmed, the glans (tip) of your penis will be visible.

**Stitches**
Any stitches (sutures) that have been used are dissolvable. This means that they will eventually disappear. It may take a few weeks for them to disappear completely. Do not pull at any loose ends of the suture material, as this may open up the wound. Please seek advice from your GP if you are worried at all about your stitches.

**Wound dressing**
On your return from the operating theatre you will have some coloured gauze (wound dressing) around your penis. It is likely that the gauze will fall off when you first pass urine or if it rubs against the bedclothes – please let your nurse know if this happens.

If you still have any of the dressing in place when you return home, please soak this off under warm (not hot) water. Do not pull the dressing off, as this may cause the wound to start bleeding.

**Bleeding**
A small amount of bleeding is normal after the procedure. Your nurse will check this regularly. You will be discharged home with a small supply of gauze. You should use this to apply pressure to your penis if bleeding starts once you are home – your nurse will tell you how to do this. When you are discharged we will give you the contact numbers to call if you have any concerns or questions.
**Bathing**

You can have a short bath or shower the day after your procedure. Please do not use soap or perfumed products on the wound as these can sting and also encourage infection.

Please make sure that the wound is completely dry after your bath or shower. Either let it air dry or pat it dry with something clean and absorbent, such as a clean, soft towel or flannel. Do not use cotton wool or tissues, as you may find that these stick to the wound.

It is advisable to wear loose clothing after the procedure. This will help with air circulation and also prevent your wound from rubbing on your clothes.

**Sexual intercourse**

We recommend that you wait until your wound has healed completely before attempting sexual intercourse. This should take around 4 weeks, but will depend on how well your wound heals.

Please also avoid gaining an erection until your wound is completely healed, as this may cause your wound to open.

**Pain, swelling and infection**

Some swelling and mild to moderate pain is to be expected after this procedure. Throbbing pain which isn’t controlled by painkillers, or a tightness around the wound with smelly or discoloured (yellow) discharge, could be signs of early infection. If this happens please contact your GP.

You are likely to have quite extensive bruising around the tip of your penis and down the shaft. This is a normal effect of the procedure you have had.
Serious complications such as tense (tight) swelling with bruising or infection are rare and only affect around 1% of people who have this procedure (1 in 100). If you do develop serious swelling, bruising or an infection, you are likely to need to have this treated with a further operation.

If you are at all concerned please contact one of the numbers on the leaflet you are given after your procedure, or contact your GP.

We will give you one of our information and advice booklets:
- After a general anaesthetic
or
- After a local anaesthetic

This will give you more advice about the particular type of anaesthetic that you have had and also about pain relief. The nurse looking after you will be able to give you the leaflet that relates to the anaesthetic you have had. Emergency contact numbers for the next 24 hours can also be found in these leaflets.

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call 01865 221 473 or email PALS@ouh.nhs.uk