



Child's circumcision

Introduction

We expect your child to make a rapid recovery after their operation and to experience no serious problems. However, it is important that you should know about minor problems which are common after this operation and also about more serious problems which can occur occasionally. The section "what problems can occur after this operations?" describes these and we would ask you to read this carefully.

What is a circumcision?

Circumcision is an operation to remove the foreskin of the penis. Just a small margin of the skin covering the glans (the end part of the penis) is left behind and this is joined to the skin of the start of the penis by stitches. The operation is done under a general anaesthetic.

Why is a circumcision done?

The usual medical reason for a circumcision is a tight foreskin together with an infection (a condition called balanitis).

Often the foreskin is simply stuck to the glans of the penis rather than genuinely tight. At birth it is usual for the foreskin to be attached to the glans by fine bands called adhesions which break down during the early years of life. In some children, however, the foreskin is genuinely tight and cannot be pulled back to expose the glans. This is usually noticed at a medical check. A foreskin that is tight in early years of life may become less tight and can be pulled back as the years go by.

Surgeons recognise that some families regard circumcision as an operation that they favour, whilst others would prefer to avoid circumcision unless absolutely necessary. The family wishes are important to discuss in cases where a need for a circumcision is debatable.

