

Circumcision in Adults

A circumcision involves the removal of the foreskin or prepuce and may be performed under a local (with you awake) or general anaesthetic (i.e. asleep). It is a routine procedure usually performed on a day case basis. This means that you will be admitted and discharged on the same day as the operation.

Even when the operation is performed under a general anaesthetic, at the start of the procedure the penile skin is made numb with an injection of local anaesthetic around the base of the penis. This means that when you wake after the procedure, you will feel little or no discomfort. The wound will, however, become sore once the anaesthetic wears off at home and you will be given painkillers which should be given regularly as prescribed. You may find that wearing loose underpants and trousers may aid comfort. About 24 hours after surgery you may bath or shower, allowing the water to soak off the wound dressing. Avoid the use of bubble baths and scented soaps. Dry your genital area carefully afterwards.

There may be oozing from the wound site for a few days and you may need to reapply dressings obtained from the ward before discharge.

Try to keep the penis free from urine as much as possible i.e. dab end with clean tissue paper after each time you urinate.

If the ooze from the wound changes to a yellow/green colour with or without an offensive smell, and/or the wound site becomes very red and sore and this does not resolve within a few days, you may have a wound infection. You should seek advice from your GP.

You will notice the small stitches in the wound. These are dissolvable and do not need removing, however, they may take several weeks to disappear or fall out.

Contact sports and swimming should be avoided for 2 weeks while the wound is healing.