

Circumcision in Adults

A circumcision involves the removal of the foreskin (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 should take painkillers as required. You may find that wearing supportive underpants and trousers may aid comfort when walking around.

About 48 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. You will get some swelling and bruising of the penis which may last several days and it can take up to six weeks before the penis returns to its final cosmetic appearance. The exposed glands on the penis will feel very sensitive for the first two weeks and may dry out and scab over but applying a little Vaseline will help this and can also help decrease the sensitivity after the operation.

After passing urine, dab end with clean tissue paper after each time you urinate. 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. There may be oozing from the wound site for a few days. 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 the Hampshire Clinic.

You will continue to get erections as normal after the procedure but you should refrain from any sexual activity (intercourse or masturbation) for four weeks. When you first get erections, you may feel some tightness around the scar tissue; this will regain its normal elasticity within a few months. The procedure will have no effect on your ejaculation and fertility.