

Circumcision for Boys in Newcastle

Information for Parents and Guardians

Information for Parents and Guardians

The purpose of this leaflet is not to advocate circumcision. Whether to go ahead with the procedure is a choice to be made for the families involved. The aim of the leaflet is to outline some of the things you need to consider in order to make sure that the procedure is carried out in a safe way.

What you need to know

- Although most boys recover well with no problems, like all operations, circumcision carries a risk of complications. You should be told about these by the person performing the operation
- The NHS in Newcastle does not fund male circumcision unless there is a medical reason.

Age

It is recommended that your son's circumcision is done when he is as young as possible.

Consent

- Consent means that you agree to have your son circumcised and that the operation and potential risks have been clearly explained to you. It is important that both parents and/or carers with parental responsibility give their consent before the operation happens. If there is disagreement between parents or carers about undertaking the circumcision, legal advice can be sought.
- You should feel free to ask any questions, for example about the risks and benefits of the operation. All health professionals who perform the operation will be happy to answer your questions. It is important that you feel confident in the practitioner you use. It is up to you to be satisfied that the practitioner you use is competent and experienced.
- Your chosen practitioner should ask about your son's health and your family's health history before doing the circumcision. Your son should be in good health before circumcision is carried out.

Clean and Sterile

The premises should be clean and equipment sterile, disposable instruments should be used in order to reduce the risk of your son developing an infection after the procedure. A good practitioner will use equipment and techniques designed to make the operation as safe as possible.

Circumcision is an operation and needs to be performed in a suitable place that is quiet and clean with sterile equipment; it is important to keep this in mind if you want to make the circumcision part of a family celebration.

Being present during the circumcision

If you want to be with your son when the circumcision is performed you need to talk about this with the person who will be doing the circumcision. Some, not all, practitioners are happy for you to be present, so discuss this when you contact them.

Pain management

Having a circumcision may be painful for your son. You should be told about how the pain will be managed during the circumcision and how to reduce his pain at home afterwards. If you haven't been told, make sure you ask.

Aftercare

Your son should be kept at the premises for at least 30 minutes after the operation. The staff should talk you through what happens next and how to care for your son. When you go home you should be given a detailed leaflet about how to look after your son, including when and where to seek help and any signs to look out for. You should be given a contact number to use if you have any concerns.

If you are worried about your son after the circumcision you should contact the practitioner. If you cannot get in touch with them, or you are not happy with their advice, you should contact your GP or take your son to your local Accident and Emergency department.

Remember, if you arrive for the circumcision and you are not happy with anything or you are worried about your son's health for any reason, you do not need to go through with the circumcision at this time. Any good practitioner will listen to your worries and rearrange or cancel if that is what you wish.

Complaints

If you are unhappy about the service you received, first speak to the practitioner who did the circumcision. If you aren't sure who to talk to or would like more information about this leaflet you can contact your local **NHS PALS** (Patient Advisory and Liaison Service). This organisation will advise you of what you need to do. In Newcastle the number is: **Freephone: 0800 0320202 / Text: 01670 511098**

Female Genital Cutting

This has no medical benefits and is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003)

This leaflet is available in alternative formats on request by telephoning Lucy Hall, Equality and Diversity Lead on 0191 2824241

Date September 2013

Review date: September 2015

This information was produced in partnership between the

health & race 
equality forum

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust