

## Circumcisions at UW Medicine Clinics

*Many UW Medicine Clinics do circumcisions as an outpatient procedure. We respect a family's choice about whether or not to have their newborn son circumcised.*

### Circumcision and Your Baby

*Circumcision* is a surgery that removes 25% to 50% of the foreskin of the penis. It is usually done in the first few weeks of a baby boy's life.

A circumcision takes about 20 minutes. Healing takes 7 to 10 days. A baby must be healthy to be safely circumcised.

Studies show that circumcision has health benefits. In 2012, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) stated that these health benefits outweigh the risks.

Parents choose what is best for their child. Some parents have their sons circumcised for religious, social, or cultural reasons. Others choose not to for similar reasons. See the benefits and risks of circumcision below and on the next page.



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### Benefits and Risks of Circumcision

#### Benefits

- A lower risk of urinary tract infections (UTIs).
- A lower risk of getting cancer of the penis. But, this type of cancer is very rare, whether or not a male is circumcised.
- A slightly lower risk of getting sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HPV and HIV, the AIDS virus.
- Prevention of foreskin infections.



To make an appointment for your baby's circumcision, please call the UW Medicine Contact Center at 206.520.5000.

- Prevention of *phimosis*, a condition in uncircumcised males that prevents foreskin *retraction* (pulling back).
- Easier to keep the genital area clean.

**Risks**

- As with any surgery, circumcision has some risks. Problems from circumcision are rare, and most times they are minor. They include bleeding, infection, cutting the foreskin too short or too long, and improper healing. Be sure to talk with your healthcare provider about possible problems.
- When the foreskin is removed, it may be easier for the tip of the penis to become irritated. This may cause the opening of the penis to become too small. Rarely, this can cause urination problems that may need to be corrected with surgery.
- Some people believe that circumcision makes the tip of the penis less sensitive, causing a decrease in sexual pleasure later in life. This has not been proven by any medical or psychological study.

**Planning for Circumcision at UW Medicine**

If you choose a circumcision, we will make sure that your baby is as comfortable and safe as possible. We give caring support and medicines to ease the discomfort of this procedure.

Even though this is a short procedure, plan to be at the clinic for at least 1½ to 2 hours to allow full care for your baby. We want to make sure your baby is fine before you leave.

Please make your appointment as soon as you can after you give birth. We prefer to see infants **up to 3 weeks of age**. Ask your insurance company if it covers circumcisions. Many insurance companies do not pay for them. If circumcision is not covered by your insurance plan, you must pay for it at the time of the procedure.

**To Learn More**

To learn more about circumcisions, visit these websites:

- American Academy of Pediatrics..... [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)
- American Academy of Family Physicians..... [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)
- Family Doctor..... [www.familydoctor.org](http://www.familydoctor.org)
- Healthy Children..... [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org)

**Questions?**

Your questions are important. If you have questions about circumcision, call your healthcare provider during office hours.

UW Medicine Contact Center: 206.520.5000