CIRCUMCISION CARE

Most circumcision sites will heal within a period of seven days. You may note redness and swelling at the circumcision site during the first few days. As healing progresses, a yellow crust-like substance known as granulation tissue will often form. This occurs during normal healing and does not indicate presence of infection.

Infants usually have no change in behavior following circumcision. A few may exhibit fussiness or increased crying, sometimes during urination, which usually resolves within a day.

A gauze pad with a generous amount of petroleum jelly (e.g. Vaseline) should be placed gently over the head of the penis with every diaper change. The petroleum jelly will prevent the circumcision site from sticking to the gauze pad or diaper. The pad will also prevent contact with stool. Sometimes a special bandage called Surgicel is applied by the physician upon completion of the circumcision to prevent bleeding. Do not attempt to remove the Surgicel, it will detach on its own.

Healing is usually complete within seven days. At this time, dressings can be discontinued. Do not submerge your infant for bathing until the circumcision is healed and the umbilical cord has detached. Do not use soap, alcohol or any other agent to clean the circumcision site.

Excess bleeding is a rare complication after circumcision. If the gauze dressing is soaking through with blood, remove the pad and observe for active bleeding. If none is noted, apply a fresh gauze pad with petroleum jelly and inspect the dressing frequently for continued bleeding. If active bleeding is noted, use a fresh gauze pad with petroleum jelly and apply steady pressure to the site, then contact our office or seek medical attention immediately.

Wound infection is uncommon following circumcision. Spreading redness, persistent or progressive swelling and fever (rectal temperature>100.4° F) may indicate infection. Please notify us if any of these symptoms are noted.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have concerns regarding care related to your infant’s circumcision.