

FORESKIN CARE

Non Circumcision Care:

The skin over the end of the head of the penis is called the foreskin. During the first 5-10 years of the boy's life, it naturally separates and *retracts* (loosens) a little bit on its own. It is possible for *smegma* (whitish matter made up of dead skin), to build up underneath the foreskin in this area. This can lead to infections.

What you can do:

To prevent infections:

- Clean only the outside of the penis with water during the first year of life. Do not attempt to pull back the foreskin during this time.
- After the first year, you may gently retract the foreskin to clean the head of the penis with water.
- Plain water is the best way to clean the foreskin; soap can be very irritating to the skin.

What you can expect:

- If foreskin care is included as part of the normal person hygiene routine, infections can be prevented.
- A possible complication is for the foreskin to get stuck behind the head of the penis while retracted. This can make urinating difficult, and cause swelling, pain and even bleeding.

Contact your doctor if the foreskin gets stuck behind the head of the penis.

Circumcision Care:

Care following circumcision may include applying Vaseline to gauze and placing the gauze over the end of the penis with each diaper change to prevent friction from the diaper. If a plastic ring was left on, it will slip off in 5-8 days. The wound should heal within 7-10 days.

Contact your doctor if your son is unable to urinate with 4-6 hours after surgery, if bleeding does not stop, or if signs of infection such as foul odor or redness of the penis tip that is not better in 3-5 days.