



## **AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS**

The care of the circumcised penis is quite simple. I will go over with you what to look out for over the next several days when I speak with you after the ceremony. And, I will provide you with an instruction sheet to refer to. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have.

After the circumcision is completed, I will put a diaper on the infant into which I have placed a moderate amount of petrolatum in the front. I do not apply any dressing directly to the penis as the petrolatum will create not only a barrier to keep the penis away from urine and stool but it will also serve as a cushion and prevent the penis from sticking to the diaper. I do not like wrapping the penis in medicated gauze as these can dry out and then stick to the penis causing pain and discomfort and potential bleeding when removed. Also, if the dressing is wrapped too tightly, it may cause constriction of blood flow to the area. I suggest preparing a diaper with petrolatum in the front prior to placing on infant. It is much easier to prepare the diaper rather than trying to place the petrolatum directly on the penis. When the diaper is closed, the movement of the penis will distribute the petrolatum.

I encourage you to follow this method with each diaper change. You do not have to wipe the penis with every diaper change. After a few diapers, you might see an accumulation of petrolatum which you can wipe off gently with a soft wipe or cloth. You do not have to scrub the penis clean which can irritate the newly circumcised penis.

The skin of the head of the penis will be red and appear “raw”, wet and possibly swollen for a few days. This is normal. You also might notice that you are not able to see the entire head of the penis when you change the diaper. If this is the case, and only if this is the case, gently PUSH DOWNWARD with your CLEAN fingers at the base of the penis where it meets the body which will create some tension and help to slide the skin that has come up over the head of the penis back behind it. You should be able to see the groove between the head of the penis and the shaft. This should not be difficult to do and should become less frequent as it heals. If you have trouble doing this or not able to do it, please contact me or your pediatrician. After this is done, there might be a small amount of bleeding which will stop. Just dress the penis as above and close the diaper. A check in a few minutes will reassure you



there is no further bleeding. It is also normal to see a thin yellow film (aka granulation tissue) covering all or part of the newly exposed head of the penis. This is good, healing tissue and should not be wiped off. If you notice any increase in redness, swelling, irritation or any bleeding or pus (thick whitish to yellow/green substance), please call me or notify your pediatrician immediately. This needs to be examined. These are unusual events but they can occur. They are typically minor and are easily taken care of but you should be aware of them while the penis heals.

You may give the infant a sponge bath and the penis can get wet. However do not immerse the infant in a tub of water for at least seven days after the circumcision or until the umbilical cord has fallen off and is healed.

Healing will take time, but by the end of the first week you will notice a lighter colored penis and by about two weeks it should be pink and well healed.