

## △ GENERAL INFORMATION

*Circumcision* is removal of the foreskin of the penis. There can be several reasons for wanting a circumcision:

- Religious practice, as, for example, with Muslims and Jews.
- The parents feel that
  - It is difficult or cumbersome to pull back the foreskin regularly to clean the area.
  - It will protect the infant from urinary tract infections.
  - It will prevent infection and irritation under the foreskin.

## PREOPERATIVE PREPARATION

- There may be testing of the blood to see that it clots normally.
- A general physical examination may be performed. The procedure should not be done in premature infants or in those with any other illness unless the most careful consideration has been given by the pediatrician and the parents.
- The penis and scrotum should be examined carefully to be certain no abnormalities are present. A circumcision can worsen some conditions or make it much more difficult to correct them later.

## □ OPERATION

### Infant

- It can be done with or without local anesthesia, depending on the custom of the surgeon or the desires of the parents.

- The procedure takes about 5 minutes.
- A petroleum jelly-covered dressing is applied loosely around the tip of the penis.
- The infant can be taken home directly after the procedure.

### Child

- Do not let the child eat or drink anything for 6 hours before the operation.
- The operation is done under general anesthesia.
- The operation usually takes 30 minutes.
- A light petroleum jelly dressing will be applied around the circumcision.
- The child will be taken to a recovery room. As soon as the child's blood pressure, pulse, and breathing are stable and he is fully alert, he may be taken home.

## ⊕ HOME CARE

- Resume the usual activities.
- Make every attempt to change the diapers as soon as possible when they are soiled.
- The child may be bathed, but do not let him soak any more than is necessary to complete the bathing.

## 📞 CALL OUR OFFICE IF

- There is bleeding from the circumcision.
- The child cannot urinate.
- The penis becomes red and appears infected.
- The infant or child develops a temperature higher than 101°F.
- You have any questions.