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Caring for Your child after a Circumcision:

Cleaning and care: Cover the inside front of the diaper with ½ tsp of Vaseline every time you change the diaper, or simply apply some Vaseline-covered gauze to the penis area and then cover this with the diaper leaving the gauze in place. Vaseline will help keep the head of the penis from drying out, will keep the penis from sticking to the diaper, and will keep some of the urine off of the raw, healing area. Use the Vaseline for 5-7 days until the skin appears healed and no longer red or raw. Your son can have a bath 48 hours after the circumcision. You do not need to make any specific effort to clean the circumcision sight. If stool gets on the penis, gently remove it with wipes or in the bathtub.

7-10 days after the circumcision, be sure you can see the rim of the glans (the glans is the head of the penis). If you cannot, gently pull back on the skin covering the shaft of the penis. If you still cannot see the rim of the glans after gently pulling back the skin, you should schedule an appointment with one of our providers.

Managing the Pain: The numbing shot your son received prior to the circumcision will help with pain for several hours. You may notice more fussiness as the numbing wears off, particularly when you change his diaper. The pain for most patients is adequately managed with gentle care and common comfort strategies such as holding the patient and letting him breast feed or suck on a pacifier. Frequent application of Vaseline as described above also helps decrease pain.

Potential complications:

1. **Bleeding:** Bleeding usually occurs within the first 12 hours of the procedure. It is common to see spots of blood in the diaper for the first day, but you should never see active bleeding. If you see fresh bleeding at the circumcision site, you should seek immediate medical attention. If our clinic is open, call and come in. If it is after our clinic has closed, go to the ER.

2. **Adhesion:** Adhesions occur when the skin on the shaft of the penis is adhered or stuck to the head of the penis. Most adhesions are mild and will self resolve, or can be easily treated in our office. Rarely, they will form "skin bridges". Skin bridges require a repeat procedure to repair. Applying Vaseline as described above, pulling back on the foreskin after the first week, and coming in early if you see this problem developing are all ways to minimize the risk of more severe adhesions.

3. **Infection:** As the circumcision heals, white or yellow patches will appear on the head of the penis. These are normal and will go away after a few days. They do not represent infection. Signs of infection include redness and swelling on the shaft of the penis that spread towards the body. Fortunately, infections after circumcision are rare. If you suspect one, call and make an appointment to have a doctor evaluate your child.