

Information about **Infant (New-born) Plastibell Circumcision**



**Royal Hospital for Children
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Introduction

New-born male circumcision is usually performed for religious and cultural reasons. This leaflet will explain what happens and how to organise it.

What is Plastibell Circumcision?

This procedure involves using the Plastibell ring which is a plastic ring inserted between the foreskin and the head of the penis. This causes the foreskin to fall off naturally by blocking blood supply.

As this procedure uses a **local anaesthetic**, your child can only have this procedure **up to the age of 8 weeks**. After 8 weeks, your child will have to wait for the procedure until they are over the age of one, as they will need a **general anaesthetic** (which means they will be asleep during the procedure).

The procedure takes place in a treatment room at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow by one of our experienced clinical staff.

When you arrive at the hospital

On arrival, a member of staff will assess your child and explain the procedure to you. If you choose to go ahead, we will ask for your written consent. **Please note that both parents need to attend to give their consent.**

Assessment

When you attend the clinic, a member of staff will ask you some questions and examine your child. They are checking that there are no reasons that the procedure cannot go ahead, and making sure that you understand what it will involve.

Some babies are born with a condition called **hypospadias** which means that the hole that your child passes urine from (meatus) is not in the right place. If your child has this condition, we may have to check with the Urologist (a doctor who specialises in the kidneys, bladder and genitals) that the circumcision can go ahead. We will arrange this.

If your child is suitable for a circumcision, we will explain the procedure to you and both parents will have to sign the consent form.

The Procedure

We use the Plastibell(R) technique to perform the circumcision. The procedure takes approximately 5-10 minutes.

Anaesthetic

Once both parents have given their consent, we will apply a local anaesthetic cream around the base of your son's penis this is to numb the penis. We will also give them pain medication (paracetamol). After about 30 minutes, we will inject a local anaesthetic at the base of the penis to numb it completely. This should not be painful. This will take full effect after about 10 minutes, after then the procedure can go ahead.

We will sometimes offer sucrose (sugar water) to your child during the procedure as it will calm and settle your child, this is often used to help with pain relief in small children.

The Plastibell

After applying a local anaesthetic, we place the plastibell between the head of the penis (glans) and the foreskin and use surgical string (ligature) to secure it.

We then remove any excess skin to prevent bleeding.



Over the next seven to ten days, the surgical string will work its way through the layers of skin to completely remove them and will then fall off along with the Plastibell into your child's nappy.

You will have to hold your child completely still during the procedure, and our staff will be able to assist with this.

Risks

We will remind you of the risks before you give your consent on the day of your child's procedure. As with all medical procedures, circumcision carries some risks. The most common are bleeding and infection.

Bleeding from the wound happens in around 1 out of 100 procedures. Not all children who experience a bleed will need a further procedure, but around 1 out of 2 will, and they usually need a general anaesthetic.

Infection happens less than 1 out of 100 procedures and we can easily treat this with antibiotics. – You can reduce this risk by following the aftercare instructions.

Aftercare Instructions

- The procedure will take place in the morning. You will be able to go home shortly after the procedure takes place and your child has passed urine. A clinician will call you on the number you have provided, in the late afternoon of the same day to see how your son has settled.
- For the first 48 hours after the procedure, you should give your child regular paracetamol, a member of staff will explain this to you.
- We will give you a numbing gel to apply to the head of the penis for the first 48 hours.
- Every time you change a nappy, you should apply petroleum jelly (Vaseline) to the Plastibell and the head of the penis to make sure it doesn't stick to the nappy.
- You should apply a barrier cream like Sudocream to the scrotum (the sac of skin that hangs from the body at the front of the pelvis, between the legs) to prevent rubbing or damage from the Plastibell.
- After 48 hours, you can give your child a bath. Your child should have a bath every day until the Plastibell falls off.
- There may be some swelling that appears around day five to seven after the procedure, this is normal.
- The ring of the Plastibell may start to partially separate at this point, that is normal and it should be allowed to do so on its own.
- After it falls off completely, the wound may look red, or have some white or yellow discharge, this should settle within two or three days.

Side Effects

It is normal to see a few small drops of blood, or a slight stain in your baby's nappy after this procedure. If, however, there is a lot of blood, or the small drops do not stop after a few hours, then you should attend the Emergency Department at the Royal Hospital for Children.

If there is a lot of redness around the skin edges or if there is any discharge, or if you have any other concerns about a side effect of the procedure, then you should speak to your GP or phone NHS 24 on 111.

Booking

If you wish to go ahead with an appointment, it is important that you contact us as soon as possible, after your son has been born. **Once your baby is over eight weeks of age, we will not be able to do the plastibell procedure**

To register your child, please email:

appointmentsbookingcentre@ggc.scot.nhs.uk or telephone **0800 592 087**

Please use the heading, **Plastibell** and include the following details:

- your child's name,
- their date of birth,
- their home address and
- a parent contact telephone number.



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