

# Urology<sub>West</sub>

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## INFORMATION LEAFLET: CIRCUMCISION

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### WHAT IS A CIRCUMCISION?

A circumcision is when part of the foreskin around the tip of the penis is removed.

### WHY DO I NEED A CIRCUMCISION?

Your surgeon has suggested that you have a circumcision because the opening at the end of the penis is too tight. This can interfere with the passing of water, can cause infection and can make sexual intercourse more uncomfortable.

### WHAT WILL THE OPERATION INVOLVE?

The operation will involve removing the foreskin, dissolvable stitches are used to hold the remaining skin edges together while they heal. Usually this operation takes place under general anaesthetic and, therefore, we will be asking you to fast for at least 6 hours prior to the procedure. You will be asked to get into a gown by the nurses on the ward when they pre admit you. You will then be taken to theatre on a trolley where the procedure will take place.

### AFTER THE OPERATION

Circumcision can either be done as a day case or occasionally you can stay one night in hospital. You will have a dressing around your penis which may have a little bit of blood in it before you go home. It is very common for there to be bruising and swelling of the penis for at least 5 – 7 days after the operation. During the procedure we give a long acting local anaesthetic so you should not be uncomfortable the first night after surgery. However, we do recommend that you take some pain killers for a day or two after the procedure such as Paracetamol or Nurofen. You may find wearing supportive underwear more comfortable than wearing boxer shorts. The stitches will dissolve in approximately 14-27 days and we recommend that you have a bath daily after the procedure. You do not need to add any deodorant, salt or other things to the bath. It is simply just a process of allowing water get on to the wound. You can pat the wound dry with a clean dry towel after you have come out of the bath. Most people require at least two to three days off work after the operation. However, it is dependent upon how labour intensive your job is. We usually recommend that you avoid sexual intercourse for at least three weeks after the operation and that when you initially commence sexual intercourse that you use a condom on the first two occasions as it is less likely to cause discomfort on the wound. Very occasionally, there can be some very heavy bruising during a circumcision that may require the sealing of a vessel or a return back to theatre within 24/48 hours. If this were to occur you could contact us in the office (091) 767487 between 9 and 5. If it is out of hours, I would recommend that you contact the On Call Urology Registrar in University College Hospital, Galway (091) 524222. I hope that this leaflet is of some benefit to you.