

## Circumcision Aftercare

- The following aftereffects may be seen during the first week after circumcision, all of which are normal.
  - A small amount of bloody discharge on the gauze pad.
  - A clear secretion which may congeal or oxidize and appear as white spots.
  - Swelling that may appear lopsided. Swelling may take several weeks to resolve.
  - The head of the penis may appear reddish or purplish.
- First Week Protocol
  - Follow this protocol every time the baby's diaper is changed until any bloody discharge and secretion have dried up. This may take anywhere from 3-7 days.
  - Apply a generous amount of Vaseline to a 3x3 gauze pad.
  - With the penis pointing down and resting on the scrotum, place the gauze pad over the penis. The gauze pad should not be wrapped around the shaft of the penis.
  - The Vaseline coated gauze pad is intended solely as a soothing, protective barrier between the penis and the inner dry lining of the diaper.
- Hygiene
  - As a regular practice during diaper changes, gently push down the shaft skin and clean the entire penis shaft. Begin this practice only once the penis has fully healed.
- Avoiding adhesions
  - Adhesions, a condition in which shaft skin adheres to the bottom of the penis head, are normal and typically resolve on their own during the first few years of toddlerhood and boyhood. It is possible to reduce or prevent adhesions by applying Vaseline just below the penis head during regular diaper changes for as long as the baby is in diapers. This should be done only once circumcision has healed.
- Baby fat
  - During the first year of life, well-nourished babies accumulate baby fat, including a cuff of fatty skin around the shaft of the penis. It is important to understand that the proper amount of foreskin was removed at the time of circumcision and that it does not grow back.