

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

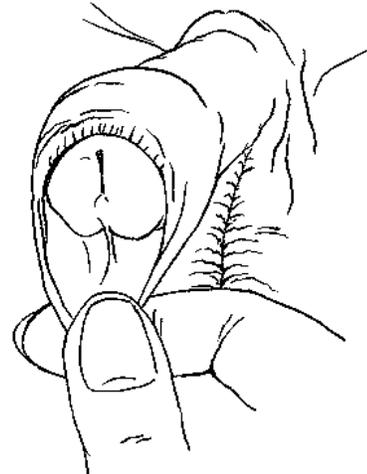
Whether or Not to Circumcise

If you have a boy, the American Academy of Pediatrics says you should choose whether or not to circumcise your son. There is no medical reason to circumcise your son.

Either way, he will still need to learn how to keep his penis clean.

Some insurance plans, like AHCCCS, do not pay for circumcisions at this time.

Your son must be healthy and stable to be safely circumcised.



**Whether or not your son
is circumcised,
he will still need to learn how to
keep his penis clean.**

What is circumcision?

Boys are born with a piece of skin covering the tip of the penis, called the foreskin. In circumcision, a doctor cuts off this skin. If this is done in the first month of life, it is a simple procedure that may be done in a doctor's office with medicine to numb the penis (**local anesthesia**). If the boy is older, it will require your child having surgery with **general anesthesia**.

How to decide whether or not to circumcise:

You decide whether or not to circumcise your son. There is no wrong decision.

Things to think about:

- Does your religion suggest your son should be circumcised?
- Does your culture suggest your son should be circumcised?
- Is it important to you that your son's penis looks like his father's penis?
- How do you feel about circumcision?

Some reasons to circumcise:

- Some boys are less likely to get infections of the urinary tract if they are circumcised.
- Cancer of the penis is rare, and men who have been circumcised as infants are less likely to get it.

Some reasons not to circumcise:

- Babies who are born too early (**premature**) should not be circumcised until they are big enough or old enough.
- Boys with blood problems that make them bleed should not be circumcised.
- A baby may be born with a penis that is not normal. If the baby is not circumcised, the foreskin could be used later in surgery to fix the penis.

Risks of circumcision:

A circumcision is usually very safe. There are a few risks with circumcision:

- Very rarely, the site of the surgery may bleed. This usually happens if the baby has a bleeding problem, but it can happen in normal babies.
- Any break in the skin can let in germs. Your baby can get an infection, but it does not happen often.

- Sometimes it is hard for the doctor to know how much skin to take off. This is usually not a problem.
- The site of the surgery may form a scar.
- Skin from the shaft of the penis can get stuck to the head of the penis. This is called an **adhesion**.

If you decide to have your son circumcised, the doctor will tell you how the surgery is done and ask you to sign a consent form.

The baby is usually not put to sleep for this surgery. To help prevent pain, your baby will be given local anesthesia by the doctor before the surgery. For the first few days after circumcision, the penis is very sensitive. Ask your nurse to show you how to comfort a baby in pain.

Now that you've read this:

- Think about whether or not you want your baby circumcised. If you have any questions, ask your nurse or doctor. (Check when done.)



If you have any questions or concerns,

- call your child's doctor or call _____

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-933-1400
866-933-6459
www.phoenixchildrens.org
Facebook: facebook.com/theemilycenter
Twitter: [@emilycenter](https://twitter.com/emilycenter)
Pinterest: pinterest.com/emilycenter

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

June 8, 2016 • DRAFT to family review
#193 • Written by Outpatient Pediatrics Staff
Illustrated by Dennis Swain

Whether or Not to Circumcise

Name of Health Care Provider: _____

Date returned: _____ db

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.

Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read? Yes No

easy to read? Yes No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read? Yes No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading
this handout? Yes No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any
questions about the subject? Yes No

If yes, what?

Is there anything you don't like about the drawings?

Yes

No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

The Emily Center
Health Education Specialist
Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016-7710

602-933-1395

Thank you for helping us!