



Circumcision – Parent information

If you are considering circumcision for your male infant (baby son), you should have a discussion with a medical practitioner to make an informed decision.

This information has been developed by The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) for parents who are considering circumcision of their male infant. The information relates to circumcision of male infants, which is defined as the first 12 months of life (the infant period) with a focus on the newborn period (the first 28 days of life).

Medical practitioners are obliged to provide parents with accurate, unbiased, up-to-date information on the risks and benefits of the procedure. Paediatricians will support the rights of the child foremost but will respect informed parental choice.

What is circumcision?

Circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin of a male's penis.

What does circumcision involve?

In general terms, the steps of circumcision involve:

- Removing the foreskin from the glans.
- Controlling blood loss.
- Promoting wound healing.



Medical reasons for circumcision

May include frequent urinary tract infections related to kidney and urinary tract issues.

What are the risks?

These can be minor, but some can be serious and include bleeding, infection, pain, skin issues and difficulties urinating.



Key medical considerations

A medical practitioner needs to discuss with you:

- The health of your infant.
- Bleeding risks, such as family history and checking that the infant has received a vitamin K injection.
- Any other medical issues that have been present from birth.
- Pain control options and risks.
- What information you should expect from the medical practitioner who completes the circumcision.



Considering circumcision?

A medical practitioner can discuss with you:

- The method.
- The expected benefits and the risks.
- The care needed after the procedure, including pain control.

RACP position on circumcision of infant males

The RACP does not support routine circumcision of infant males in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, however the RACP supports consideration of circumcision related to significant urinary tract abnormalities.

For further information, please see the [RACP Circumcision of Infant Males position statement \(2022\)](#).