

## **Information for Parents about Circumcision**

### **What is circumcision?**

Circumcision is a surgery that removes the skin that covers the tip of the penis (foreskin) to change the appearance of penis.

### **Is this a common procedure?**

Circumcision of newborn boys is a common procedure in the United States. Worldwide most newborn boys are not circumcised.

### **What are the benefits to circumcision?**

Circumcision may have some benefits, such as decreasing the risk of infections and cancers of the penis.

### **What are the risks if circumcision?**

As with any surgical procedure, there are risks. The overall rate of complication is estimated at 2 to 6 per 1,000 procedures. The most frequent complications include: infection and bleeding. Less common complications include unsatisfactory cosmetic outcome (too little or too much foreskin removed), injury to the glans or shaft of the penis. Rarely, more surgery may be needed to revise the original circumcision and is performed by a pediatric urologist.

### **Will my son feel pain during his circumcision?**

To keep your son comfortable he will receive an injection of a local numbing medicine (Lidocaine) which is injected through a tiny needle into the skin around the penis. This may leave a bruise. Extremely rare side effects to the numbing medicine include seizures, allergic reactions, and/or heartbeat changes. Babies are also comforted by sucking on sugar water with a gloved finger or pacifier.

### **When is circumcision usually performed?**

Circumcision at Mount Auburn Hospital is usually performed the day before discharge to home but not on the day of birth.

### **Can the procedure be done after discharge from the hospital?**

Because this is an elective (not essential) procedure, the circumcision will not be performed if the infant is being treated for a medical condition. If the procedure is not done before discharge, your baby's doctor can give you the name of a doctor who can perform this procedure after discharge.

### **Who performs circumcisions at Mount Auburn Hospital?**

Generally your baby's pediatrician or obstetrician will perform this procedure.

### **Who makes the decision to have my son circumcised?**

Parents determine what is in the best interest of their son. Newborn circumcision is a social or cultural decision. Parents who request a circumcision must sign a written informed consent

If you have further questions on circumcision, please discuss them with your baby's doctor.