

ELECTIVE CIRCUMCISION CONSENT FORM

REDGUM SKIN CANCER CLINIC

174 Hancock Rd Ridgehaven SA 5097 Ph 08 83963398

www.redgumclinic.com email:admin@redgumclinic.com

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1. The Procedure

This operation is the surgical removal of the foreskin of males - infants, children and adults.

2. Methods

We use two different methods depending on age -

For infants and children up to and including 9 years of age - we use the plastibell/circumplast method (Ligature tied around a grooved plastic tube). For some 8-9 year olds the stitching method is an option and may be more suitable (see 10 years and above information).

For children 10 years and above through to adults, doctor uses the free-form surgery method involving hand stitching.

The patient is required to have an initial consultation with our doctor to discuss the procedure (patients under 16 require parental consent). Following this consultation, the procedure appointment can be booked.

3. Preferred Age

Circumcision at any age is not a difficult procedure at our clinic. After performing well over a thousand circumcisions over many years, using local anaesthetic, our doctor considers that 3-4 months of age is optimal.

4. Infants and Children to 9 years old

Local anaesthetic is used for this procedure, however Emla local anaesthetic cream is applied at our Clinic half an hour to one hour prior to the procedure (depending on the age

of the child) and is held in contact with the skin using plastic wrap. This numbs the skin for administration of the local anaesthetic injections at the commencement of the procedure.

We allow 30 minutes for the procedure, an hour if using the stitching method in the older boys.

Ineffective anaesthetic – the practice keeps up to date with effective anaesthetic techniques for circumcision but in a small percentage of cases the anaesthetic is not totally effective. When possible, further anaesthetic will be given to the child.

Distress – your infant may become distressed during the process. Babies can become distressed for various reasons even with effective analgesic. We will attempt to minimise distress as much as possible during the procedure. If your infant appears in pain, it may be possible to give more local anaesthetic.

In 95% of patients the local anaesthetic works fully and the patient feels no pain whatsoever, however 5% may react when given the anaesthetic needle and may feel some pain as the string is tied.

We supply parents with chloromycetin eye ointment to use on the healing circumcision site 3 times per day applied using a finger or a cotton bud. Although infection is uncommon, use of this ointment reduces the likelihood of infection even more so.

4a Post Operative

The plastibell/circumplast, ligature (string) and remnant of foreskin should all come off by itself in about 7 to 14 days.

Bathing - the patient can be bathed once daily as usual with a small amount of liquid soap. More frequent bathing is associated with increased risk of infection.

Pain Relief - the majority of babies/children need no pain relief whatsoever as the local anaesthetic takes a few hours to wear off. Occasionally, the patient will cry or be unsettled for a short while at this time and usual analgesia as appropriate for the age of the child may help.

4b Possible Complications

Generally, circumcision at a young age is a straight forward trouble free procedure within minimal interference in baby's routine but there are a few uncommon problems that parents should know about.

Infection –Some redness near the string is expected about one week following the operation. Should swelling or redness move down the shaft of the penis then this should be reported to the clinic or your local doctor. There may be a need for the doctor to remove the plastibell/circumplast early to reduce the inflammation.

Bleeding - This occurs in about one in 300 circumcisions. Should this occur parents must contact the clinic. We provide after hours phone contacts.

Bruising - The local anaesthetic needle can cause a little bruising that takes a day or two to disappear and is of no consequence. Serious bruising is very rare (one per thousand) but has not been detrimental to the final result.

Plastibell slipping down - this is a rare problem and relates to the size of the plastibell used. We do our best to ensure the correct size is used making this a very unlikely problem. Should the plastibell slip down over the glans it may become like a ring that is too tight. This may be a medical emergency and needs to be corrected.

Foreskin reforming - on rare occasions, it is possible for the skin as it heals to form a miniature foreskin that can scar up and be hard to pull back. This is a rare problem and the only solution is usually recircumcision.

4c Instructions to Parents

It is preferable to meet the doctor face-to-face well before the procedure but due to distance, we may agree to a pre operative consultation just prior to the procedure. If your son is 2 year olds or older, the consultation should be the day prior to the procedure or earlier.

Babies should not be hungry at the time of surgery.

There is no obligation for parents to stay in theatre for the operation but parents often choose to stay in theatre to help assist in diverting their child's attention.

After the procedure parents should check for bleeding every hour for the next 3 hours. There should be no bleeding whatsoever. Folks from afar are asked to remain in the vicinity of the clinic for at least an hour so that it is easier to return should there be any concerns.

Nappies can be used as normal.

Babies/children should be bathed normally once per day. There is an increased risk of infection with bathing more often.

Once the plastibell/circumplast comes off the penis should look like the usual circumcised penis.

When the penis is healed parents are instructed to clean under the residual skin using a cotton bud daily when drying their infant after bathing.

5. Children 10 years and above, through to Adults

After the initial consultation with our doctor, the procedure appointment can be booked through our clinic reception staff. We can usually offer an appointment within 2 - 4 weeks. Children under 16 require parental consent.

Doctor uses local anaesthetic. Once good anaesthesia is attained the amount of excess foreskin is determined and surgically removed and the remaining tissue rejoined by dissolving handstitches.

We allow one and a half hours for this procedure.

5a Post Operative

The local anaesthetic used in this procedure usually lasts several hours and “over the counter” pain relief, appropriate to the age of the patient, is recommended as required over the next few days.

As dissolving stitches are used in free form circumcision surgery, patients can expect stitch remnants to come away after 10-14 days.

Time away from normal activity is variable but usually 2 to 7 days.

5b Possible Complications

Bleeding/bruising - Minor bleeding on to the dressing is not uncommon. Significant bleeding should be reported to the clinic.

Infection - this is rare, patients should report any increasing redness and tenderness.

Wound breakdown - This is quite uncommon but best managed with dressings. It may take several weeks for skin to heal across the wound. You should arrange to see our doctor for advice regarding dressings.

Unsatisfactory cosmetic result - should the patient and the doctor agree that the usual circumcised appearance has not been obtained, further foreskin can be removed.

6. Benefits to Health

There are certain well recognised health benefits provided by circumcision besides the obvious ease of hygiene.

Urinary tract infection - this is not a common illness in boys but is very rare in circumcised males.

Sexually transmitted diseases - in third world countries studies suggest that heterosexual transmission of HIV is less common with circumcised men.

Phimosis - This is scarring of the foreskin to the extent that it cannot be pulled back over the glans. This is a common reason to request circumcision as an adult.

7. Signed consent

I understand that circumcision is an elective procedure and that some believe there are no actual benefits from an elective circumcision. Understanding this I request and I agree to allow Dr Stephen Paul Cowie to perform an elective circumcision on

Myself / my son / grandchild (name of child)
(Delete whichever is not applicable)

I understand there are risks and complications associated with this procedure and that these risks and complications are uncommon. If a plastibell/circumplast ring is used I understand that it may not fall off within 14 days of the procedure.

I understand that if any of these complications occur I am to contact the Clinic or seek medical help immediately.

I understand that if such complications occur, my child may need to undergo additional medical procedures and/or be taken to the local hospital for continued care.

I consent for my child to receiving local anaesthesia.

I confirm with my signature that I have read and understand the information in this 5 paged Consent document and that Dr Cowie has discussed the above information with me and that I have had the chance to ask questions and that all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and that I do hereby consent to the treatment described in this form.

Patient/Child's name Date of Birth

..... Date: / /
Printed Name & Signature of Responsible Party:

Relationship to patient :

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