

Circumcision

Vaseline petroleum jelly may be applied to the penis with each diaper change during the two days following circumcision to keep the diaper and urine away from the freshly circumcised penis. Afterward, keep the genital area clean and dry, and the circumcision will heal rapidly. During the healing process, you will normally see some scab formation as well as a thin layer of whitish semi-liquid material which is often mistaken for pus. This is simply part of the normal healing process.

An alternative method of circumcision utilizes the Plastibell system. In this case, a plastic ring will be found around the tip of your child's penis. This ring should fall off in 6 to 7 days. If this does not occur you should contact your obstetrician or me for further instructions.

Female Genitalia (*Vagina*)

Cleaning of the baby's vagina by gentle **front to back** wiping is necessary to reduce the possibility of urinary tract infection. Some infants are noted to have a vaginal discharge with or without blood. This occurs within the first week of life and is secondary to maternal hormones. This is normal and will disappear spontaneously.

Diaper Area

Change diapers frequently during waking hours. After each bowel movement, wash baby gently with soap and water, rinse and dry. Air the diaper area ten minutes, three to four times a day. Conscientious daily skin care will be rewarded by a minimum of skin problems and a more comfortable baby. If your baby's diaper rash lasts more than 3 days, take a rectal temperature and call my office. You should also call if the rash spreads beyond the diaper area or if any blisters, pimples, boils, pus, or yellow crusting form on the infant's buttocks. Avoid using wipes for the first two weeks of life. After that you may choose to use commercial wipes but make sure they are alcohol free and unscented.