

Patient information

Staple Circumcision

Urology Department

Your doctor has advised you to have Staple Circumcision. This leaflet explains what to expect when you have a Staple Circumcision.

What is a Staple circumcision?

Circumcision is surgical removal of your foreskin using a staple device.

Why would I be having this done?

You will have been recommended a circumcision for a number of reasons:

- Persistent significant phimosis (tight foreskin) despite medical treatment +/- severe inflammation.
- Recurrent infections (balanoposthesis).
- Significant symptoms e.g. pain/ difficulty during intercourse due to foreskin problem.

What are the benefits of Staple Circumcision procedure?

To remove the foreskin and treat foreskin abnormalities.

- Avoiding cauterisation (diathermy).
- Daycase Surgery .
- Reduced recovery time with reduced need for painkillers.
- Optimum cosmetic result: precise 'machine like' incision.

What is the disadvantage of Staple Circumcision procedure?

The main downside of this approach is the use of suture staples, which are placed to seal the wound after removing the foreskin. They are roughly 1/3 the size of paper staples. We expect most to fall off after four -six weeks during the healing process. However, some can remain and need removal to avoid burying in the wounds.

What are the risks of having a circumcision (in general)?

Most procedure have side effects although the complications listed below are well recognised most patients do not suffer any problems.

Common

- Swelling of the penis lasting several days.

Occasional (between one in ten and one in fifty)

- Bleeding of the wound occasionally needing a further procedure.
- Infection of the incision requiring further treatment and / or casualty visit.
- Permanent altered or reduced sensation in the head of the penis.

Rare

- Scar tenderness.
- Failure to be completely satisfied with the cosmetic result.
- Occasional need for removal of excessive skin later.
- Permission for biopsy of abnormal area on the head of penis if malignancy is a concern.

Are there any alternative treatments available?

Sometimes topical application of creams to the foreskin can improve the problem but once it gets severe these are unlikely to be successful. If you have diabetes, then having good diabetic control can heal some foreskin problems. More minor surgical procedures such as frenuloplasty (dividing the frenulum, which is the strip of skin which attaches the foreskin to the penis) or preputioplasty (dividing the foreskin) may be possible.

What will happen if I decide not to have treatment?

Your foreskin may remain as it is currently, or the problem may get worse leading to increasing discomfort or problems with retraction.

What anaesthetic will I be given?

You will be given local anaesthetic. In rare cases, there may be a need to have sedation or a general anaesthetic. Staple Circumcision is carried out as a day case procedure.

What does the operation involve?

The operation involves the removal of your foreskin, which leaves the head (glans) of your penis exposed.

What happens after the procedure?

- Rest and observation for 30 mins.
- Nursing staff will need you to pass urine.
- If there is no additional bleeding and you have passed urine, you can be discharged home.

Going Home

- No heavy activities or sexual activity for 30 days to prevent wound tearing.
- Avoid intercourse until the staples are all gone (or use a condom).

- Pain: The local anaesthetic wears off around four hours after surgery. Take pain killers (e.g. paracetamol or ibuprofen) regularly the same day, and as required from the following day.
- Removal of all bandages 48 hours after operation: leaving the incision open speeds up healing.
- Can shower after removing the bandage. Keep the wound dry after.
- Vaseline or the rest of the chloramphenicol tube can help reduce wound friction.
- The staples should fall off automatically from one week, and usually completely within four-six weeks during the healing process. Normal erections and mobility can facilitate this.
- To optimise success of prompt staple removal, we advise patients to actively push them off or pull them out after ten days (use tweezers or cotton buds).

For special cases where there are some staples remain after six weeks, we advise contacting the hospital, so that the doctor can remove the staples.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Further information

Please contact the secretary of the consultant performing your procedure.

**In Hours Secretary telephone number 0151 706 3518 (09:00-16:00hrs)
Out of Hours on call urology via switchboard (16:00-09:00hrs).**

British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) Limited

**AUH Urology Nurses 0151 529 3484
RLH Urology Nurses 0151 282 6819**

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