

# Circumcision and your Baby Boy



*"The Canadian Pediatric Society does not recommend circumcision as a routine procedure for all newborns."*

## Facts about newborn circumcision

- Most male babies born around the world are not circumcised.
- The decision to circumcise should be based on personal, religious or cultural reasons, since for healthy babies there are no medical reasons to have this operation done.
- As with any surgery, there are risks of infection, bleeding, scarring, and rarely death.
- If your child is not circumcised as a newborn, there is a small risk that he will need a circumcision later in life, should he develop a "phimosis" (tight foreskin). Then, there would be a medical reason to have the operation and it will still be available and paid for by Manitoba Health.

## Discussions about newborn circumcision:

- Some believe that this operation reduces future sexual pleasure, because the foreskin (that is removed during circumcision) is extremely rich in nerve endings that contribute to sensation.
- Some believe circumcision may offer some protection against HIV / AIDS during unprotected sex with an infected partner.
- Some believe that circumcision may protect against urinary tract infections, although these infections are very uncommon in infant males.
- It is unclear if circumcision protects against penile cancer (a rare cancer affecting less than one in 100,000).

- Newborn circumcision is not without risk, and any benefits are not sufficient to recommend it as a routine operation for healthy newborns.

## What should you do if you are thinking of having your newborn circumcised?

- Talk to your health care provider to discuss the pros and cons of circumcision, and about the role of physicians and others in performing this procedure.
- Be aware that the Manitoba College of Physicians and Surgeons has advised physicians to carefully consider their participation in this procedure.
- If the physician agrees to proceed, be prepared to sign a comprehensive consent form acknowledging both the risks (since you will be making a decision for a child who cannot give informed consent) and the fact that no medical indication for routine newborn circumcision exists.

For more information:  
visit Internet servers: keyword  
"Circumcision"  
OR visit <http://www.cps.ca> keyword  
"circumcision"