

Surgical Circumcision of your Male Infant

The American Academy of Pediatrics states there is evidence suggesting benefits of removing the foreskin of the male infant's penis that may outweigh the risks or harms of the surgery, which include excessive bleeding, infection, pain and disfigurement. This is based on studies of older children and adult males engaged in sexual behavior. You may read more about the AAP position statement and opinions in response to this position at the following link:

http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/130/3/585/reply#pediatrics_el_55563

In the United States in 2013, an estimated 50% of families of all faiths and philosophies choose to leave their son's penises intact. River & Mountain recommends that parents research the benefits and the potential risks and harms of this elective surgical procedure for their own families in order to make an informed decision.

If you choose to have your son circumcised, the midwives will recommend providers in your area. The cost typically ranges from \$350-1200 and is usually out of pocket, as most insurance companies consider it elective, cosmetic surgery.

If you plan to have your son circumcised, he must receive a vitamin K injection after birth to prevent excessive blood loss during the procedure. The circumcision is usually performed in your home on or after the eighth day of life.

Whether your son's penis is left intact or after surgery, the midwives and their assistants will instruct you about appropriate care. A circumcised penis requires regular dressing changes and the topical application of medication until the wound has healed. Babies with intact penises do not require special retraction exercises or cleaning. These maneuvers may actually injure your baby by causing inflammation and scarring.

Babies born in the hospital may be circumcised by a midwife or obstetrician before they go home. Pediatricians and urologists generally do not perform circumcisions without medical necessity. The midwives will provide you with a list of circumcision providers River & Mountain families have employed upon request.