

**FORESKIN CARE**

**Non Circumcision Care:**
The skin over the end of the head of the penis is called the foreskin. During the first 5-10 years of the boy’s life, it naturally separates and retracts (loosens) a little bit on its own. It is possible for *smegma* (whitish matter made up of dead skin), to build up underneath the foreskin in this area. This can lead to infections.

**What you can do:**

*To prevent infections:*
- Clean only the outside of the penis with water during the first year of life. Do not attempt to pull back the foreskin during this time.
- After the first year, you may gently retract the foreskin to clean the head of the penis with water.
- Plain water is the best way to clean the foreskin; soap can be very irritating to the skin.

**What you can expect:**
- If foreskin care is included as part of the normal person hygiene routine, infections can be prevented.
- A possible complication is for the foreskin to get stuck behind the head of the penis while retracted. This can make urinating difficult, and cause swelling, pain and even bleeding.

**Contact your doctor** if the foreskin gets stuck behind the head of the penis.

**Circumcision Care:**

*Care following circumcision may include* applying Vaseline to gauze and placing the gauze over the end of the penis with each diaper change to prevent friction from the diaper. If a plastic ring was left on, it will slip off in 5-8 days. The wound should heal within 7-10 days.

**Contact your doctor** if your son is unable to urinate with 4-6 hours after surgery, if bleeding does not stop, or if signs of infection such as foul odor or redness of the penis tip that is not better in 3-5 days.