Male circumcision

- What are your reasons for choosing circumcision?
- What reasons could there be not to circumcise your baby?
- Who should be involved in the decision?

Reasons some parents decide to have their baby circumcised:

Religious or cultural norms:

- Some groups practise circumcision for religious or cultural reasons

Personal preferences / social norms:

- Some parents choose circumcision because other men in the family have been circumcised

In Norway, you must pay a fee to have your baby circumcised.

Health benefits:

- Lower risk of urinary tract infections
- Lower risk of penile cancer (this type of cancer is very rare)
- Slightly lower risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV, the virus that causes AIDS
- Makes it easier to keep the head of the penis (glans) clean

Risks relating to circumcision

Complications may occasionally arise.

Examples of complications:

- Excessive bleeding
- Infection
- Too long or too short foreskin
- Sore that heals incorrectly



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If you choose to have your baby circumcised...

- The baby may be circumcised one or two days after birth The procedure is carried out by a doctor who is a specialist and is authorised to do so
- A local anaesthetic is used to reduce the pain
- Follow the doctor’s instructions for post-circumcision care. After circumcision, the tip of the penis is smeared with Vaseline and wrapped in a gauze bandage. This prevents the baby’s penis from sticking to his nappy. Every time you change your baby’s nappy, you must wash his penis carefully with warm water and remove any traces of poo. Smear more Vaseline on the tip of your baby's penis then wrap it in a new gauze bandage before putting on a clean nappy
- The sore will heal in a few days
- Talk to the doctor about what to expect
- Call the doctor if:
  - The area becomes red or swollen
  - Blisters form
  - There is more bleeding
  - Your baby becomes feverish (temperature rises above 38.0°C)

Do you have any questions about circumcision?

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