



A Girl's Guide to Young Boys

Especially for 8-18 year old girls



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A Girl's Guide to Young Boys

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Inter-Circ: The International Circumcision Forum

is a volunteer-run pro-circumcision group. The purpose of the group is to make known the benefits of circumcision, to discuss topical issues related to the subject and to offer advice both pre- and post-circumcision.

The Inter-Circ forum is located at:

<https://groups.io/g/inter-circ>

Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this publication, it is intended as a guide only and not as a source of complete or totally indisputable information. The contents are not 'medical advice', for which you must consult a registered medical practitioner.

Introduction

This booklet has been inspired by a young U.S. family with a 9 year old boy and his 10 year old sister. They recently had their annual medical checkup and she wondered why there was a different procedure for each of them.

The boy was also found to have a small problem, for which he will need to be circumcised. His father gave him the HelpDesk publication, "All About Being Circumcised" which has answered many of his questions, but his sister wanted something to answer her questions.

Hopefully, this booklet will help girls like her to know a bit more about why young boys are so different in many ways.

Boys and girls look different

If you have ever helped a mother bath a baby boy or change his diaper you will know that a boy has some extra 'bits' (hidden inside his diaper or underpants) that you don't have. These are his genitals. He has a long tube called a penis, through which he urinates (pees) and behind that a sort of bag called his scrotum. This contains two little soft plum-like things called testes (which is the plural of testicle).

Girls don't have these, but have different special parts, all of which are inside their body out of sight. This makes a difference in the way boys' and girls' bodies are washed; and what has to be done during a medical examination.

Some penises are different from others

When you have seen several little boys you may have noticed that there seem to be two different kinds of penis. Some boys have a neat 'acorn' shaped end to their penis whilst others have a puckered hose-pipe like end.

In fact all boys have the 'acorn' (called their glans – which is actually the Latin for acorn) at the end of their penis. However for many it is covered by the extra puckered skin (called foreskin).

When a boy is born his penis has a foreskin covering the glans. Some boys have this removed, by a small procedure called circumcision, and their glans is always visible.

If you look at the pictures on page 5 you will see how the different penises look.

Why are some boys circumcised?

Boys can be circumcised at any age, but the majority are done as babies when it is easier to do and gives the boy the greatest benefits. However, some boys, or their parents, find later on that they have a problem with their uncircumcised penis and have to be circumcised then to solve the problem.

There are three main reasons why parents have their boys circumcised:

- **A religious or cultural requirement.** Jewish boys must be circumcised when they are a week old and Moslem boys must be done before they are 13. Many African tribes and other groups, such as in the Philippines, require it for the boy to be considered a man.
- **To cure a problem with the foreskin.** Sometimes the hole at the tip of the foreskin is far too small and tight, so the boy cannot urinate (pee) without pain and therefore the foreskin needs to be removed to allow normal urination.

In some cases the tightness doesn't show up until the boy is 7 or 8 and needs to be able to retract his foreskin daily to wash under it. Since his tight foreskin prevents him from doing this, he then needs to be circumcised.

Infections can develop under the foreskin, especially if it cannot be freely retracted, and circumcision is required as part of a permanent cure.

- **To prevent possible future problems.** Since some of the problems previously mentioned may not show up until the boy is older, when circumcision becomes more difficult and possibly traumatic for him, many parents choose to circumcise a baby who has a perfectly normal foreskin, and thus prevent any problems from developing later. As with vaccinations, prevention is better than cure in most cases.

Why boys need to be naked for medical examinations

As we saw earlier, boys (unlike girls) have some of their essential equipment outside their body. During a full medical check-up the doctor needs to ensure that these parts are developing correctly and there are no problems (like a tight foreskin) that need correction.

To do these checks the doctor needs full access to the boy's penis and scrotum, so he will be asked to remove his trousers and underpants during the examination, and thus be naked for a while. This is nothing for him to worry about. As a girl, you don't need to have genital examinations until you are a grown woman, so you normally keep your panties on during childhood medicals. It doesn't matter whether you have a male or female doctor, they are used to seeing both boys and girls naked during examinations, which they conduct professionally.

Bathing young boys

You may be helping your mother bath a baby brother, or as a teenager you may baby-sit a young boy and have to bath him before putting him to bed.

If he has been circumcised then it is very easy to clean his penis as there is nowhere hidden and you can simply wash it along with the rest of his body.

Be careful when washing his scrotum not to squeeze his testes, which will hurt him a lot and may damage them.

If the boy is uncircumcised then you need to pay special attention to washing his penis. For boys under 5-6 years old, their foreskin will probably still be joined internally to his glans and thus the foreskin cannot be retracted – *do not force it*.

By the age of 8 all boys should be able to freely retract their foreskin, but if it doesn't move right back easily *don't force it*, but talk to his parents about how to keep it clean under the foreskin. They may not be aware that the boy may need a circumcision.

Always be very gentle with his penis. When you've retracted the foreskin, carefully wash away all the white cheese-like material with soap and water, particularly from the 'groove' behind his glans. His glans is liable to be very sensitive to touch and he may not like you washing it. Try to get him to do it himself, but if necessary talk to his parents about the difficulty of keeping his penis clean.

Be certain to rinse off all the soap from his penis with plain water whilst his foreskin is retracted and, after drying him, return the foreskin to covering his glans if it hasn't already gone back there.

It is worth noting that once a boy can retract his foreskin, his parents should teach him to do so each time he urinates so as not to 'spray' all over the place. Prevention of spraying is one reason many parents circumcise their baby boys.

Other Useful Information

The following web sites have further medically correct information which may be of use to you.

Inter-Circ: The International Circumcision Forum

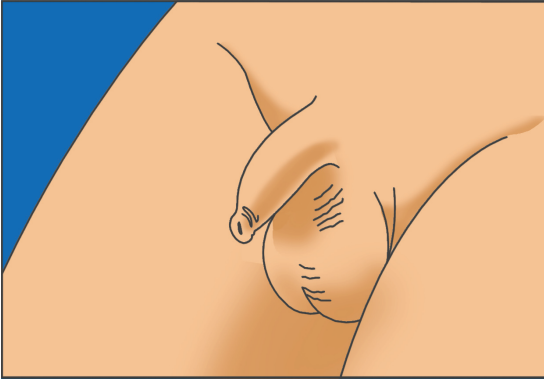
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The Circumcision Helpdesk™ Web Sites

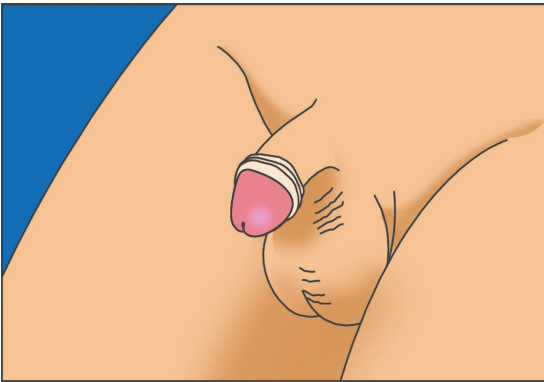
<http://www.circumcisionhelpdesk.org>

<http://www.circinfo.com>

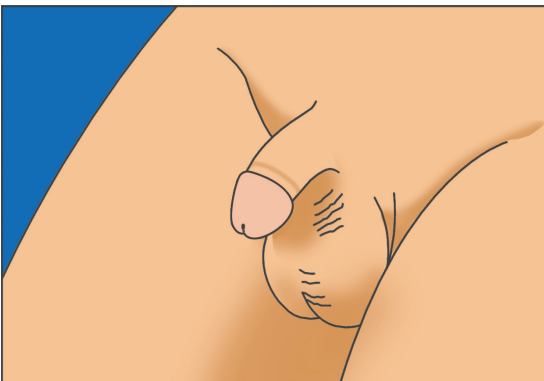
The penis in infants and young boys



Uncircumcised penis
(with foreskin in the normal
position covering the glans)



Uncircumcised penis
(with foreskin retracted to
expose the glans – note the
bunching behind the glans)



Circumcised penis
(with foreskin removed,
permanently exposing the
glans)



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