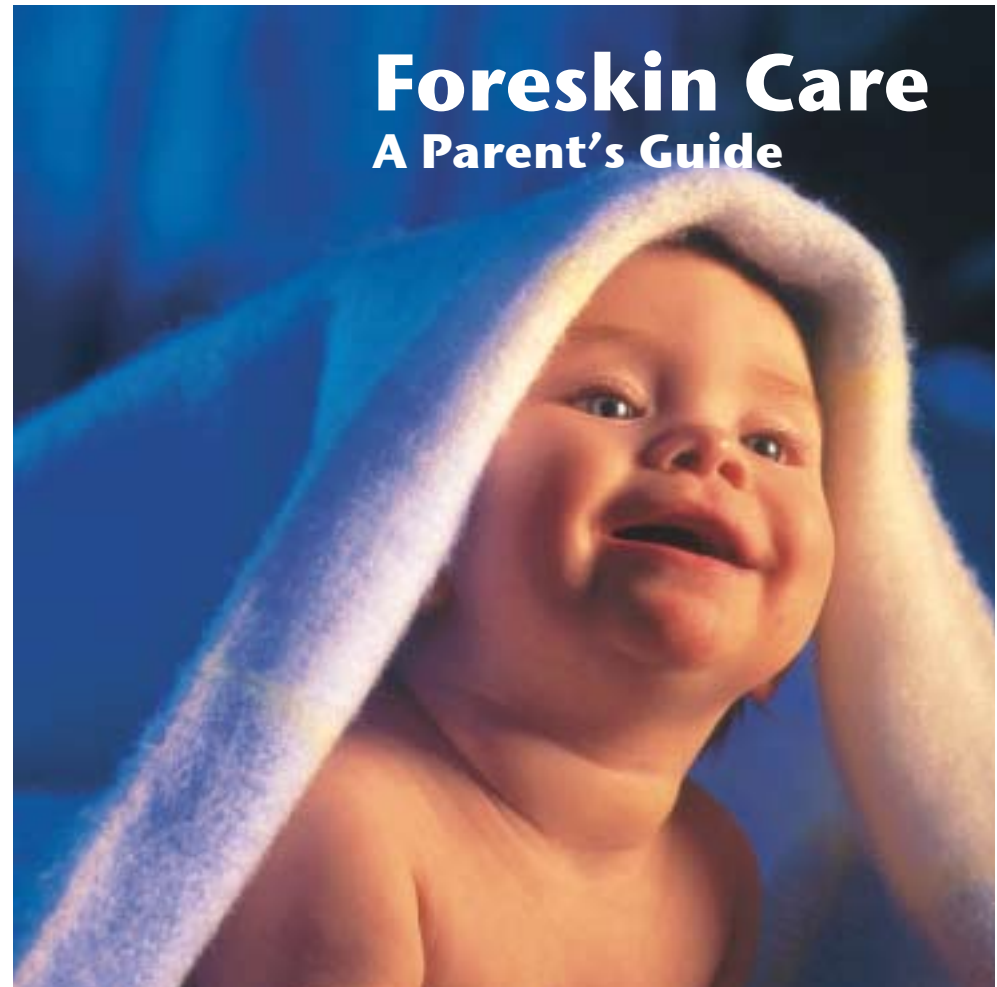




Caring for your son's foreskin is simple. Here is what you need to know including:

- Diaper Changing
- Hygiene Hints
- What to Expect
- Safety Tips
- Health Topics



Foreskin Care

A Parent's Guide



CONSIDERING CIRCUMCISION?

Visit *Circumcision Decision-Maker* to learn more about your reason and his body.

CircumcisionDecisionMaker.org



Boy's Health Advisory

4866 N. 9th Street Rd.

Lafayette, IN 47906

This information is for educational use only,
and is not a substitute for prompt professional medical advice.



Parents can relax, knowing they can now care for their natural son using this basic information, and that he will be healthy, safe, and happy.



**Wee Willy says,
I'm Intact,
Don't Retract!**

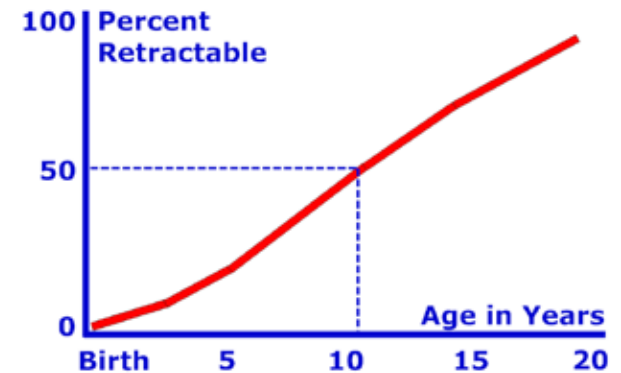
Bathing and Hygiene

Use warm, clear water to bathe him. Soaps and bubble baths can cause skin irritation. When he's ready, he can be taught to keep himself clean. As his foreskin begins to naturally retract, he should be encouraged to gently pull his foreskin back, rinse himself, and return it to its forward position. Talk with him about germs and proper hygiene, and caution him about touching his bottom—his fingers might transfer germs to his penis.

Foreskin Retraction Danger

Forced foreskin retraction by an un-informed adult is the greatest penile risk boys face. It causes severe pain, bleeding, scarring, and may lead to infection and adhesions. The foreskin should only be retracted by the boy himself, and only when he is ready to do so.

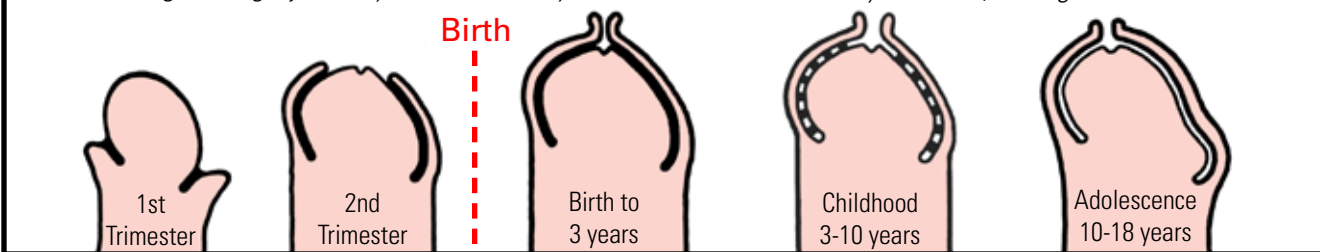
Caution: Stay with your boy during all medical examinations. Some healthcare professionals might forcibly retract his foreskin. Before every examination say, "Please, do not retract his foreskin."



Boys whose foreskin is non-retractable. This is normal, healthy, and desirable.

Foreskin and glans begin joined by a shared skin layer...

...that later slowly dissolves, leaving a functional foreskin.



Normal Growth

Before birth, the foreskin and penis grow as a single structure. After birth, the foreskin slowly begins to loosen over a period of years. As the inner layer dissolves, excess skin cells slough off and appear as small, white lumps. Few foreskins retract in the first year, most take many years, while some never retract—this is all normal.

Diaper Changing

Clean only what is seen. Change his diapers often. Make sure that the whole diaper area is clean before putting a new diaper on.



Health Hints:

Soreness and Infection

Stop bathing with soaps and bubble-baths if the foreskin becomes red and itching, a common cause is fungus, easily treated with an anti-fungal cream, or liquid acidophilus culture (available in health food stores) applied 6 times daily for 6 days. If diagnosed with a urinary tract infection, use prescribed antibiotics. Seek medical help any time there is pain, oozing, fever, change in coloration, or bleeding.

Ballooning While Peeing

This is normal, though it can be alarming to parents seeing it for the first time. If the boy is not in pain and his urine is free flowing, don't worry.

Foreskin Won't Go Back Down

Put your first and second fingers on either side of the retracted foreskin (like holding a syringe) and push the glans back into it with the thumb (like depressing the plunger on a syringe). If unsuccessful, seek medical assistance immediately.

Circumcision Referral

If your physician recommends circumcision without first considering less invasive treatments, get a second opinion. There are many alternative treatments for various penile problems such as stretching, taking prescribed antibiotics, or applying topical steroid creams, which might help your son avoid surgery.