What are the Risks and Benefits of Newborn Circumcision

You are considering having your newborn son circumcised. For the most part, circumcision is not medially necessary and the choice may be based on religious, cosmetic or personal reasons. Many people base the decision on a "better now than later" idea. About 6% of males will require a circumcision at some point for medical reasons.

Risks

Bleeding. There is usually very little bleeding, a few drops at most. About 1 in 100 need further measures such as the use of a chemical or more prolonged pressure. About 1 in 4000 require one or more stitches. Very rarely there is severe bleeding which may require blood transfusion. These are usually babies where there is a family history of a bleeding disorder such as hemophilia. If there is any history of a bleeding disorder your family you must make the doctor aware of this and consider not having the circumcision performed.

Infection. any operation can result in infection but it is quite rare following circumcision. Antibiotics may be required, but this occurs in less than 1 in 1000.

Not the look you want! Most ofter the circumcision is a cosmetic success but sometimes it may appear that too little or too much skin has been removed. Rarely this may require a second procedure to improve the cosmetics and function.

Damage to the penis. Very rarely the penis is damaged, with injury to the urethra (the hole where the urine comes out), the head or the shaft of the penis. Major surgery may be required to repair such issues, though such injuries are extremely rare.

Benefits

Fewer bladder infections, especially in the first year of life

Easier Hygiene and fewer local infections of the foreskin or head of the penis

Reduced risk of sexually transmitted infections including HIV, Herpes and HPV

Decrease in passing infections to female partners

Eliminates the need for future circumcision for medical reasons

Virtually eliminates the risk of penile cancer

When should you consider NOT having your newborn circumcised?

If there is any family history of a bleeding disorder

If the baby has any other significant medical problems

If the penis, particularly the shaft, is very small

If the baby is premature, especially if the baby needs management in the NICU. The NICU physician will advise you as to whether and when it can safely be performed.

I have read and understood this information and have been given the opportunity to ask and questions.

Name   _____

Signature   _____

Date   _____