

# Pediatric Urology of Western New York, P.C.

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## **Care of the Uncircumcised Penis**

All boys are born with a foreskin covering the tip of the penis. The foreskin protects the glans, or tip of the penis. Circumcision is the removal of the foreskin and the choice to have this done may be influenced by parental preference, religion or culture.

All skin sheds dead skin cells, even the skin on the penis. When the skin on the glans sheds and the foreskin is still intact, a white sticky substance called smegma is produced. Smegma may appear to be white “pearls” under the skin.

In uncircumcised boys, the foreskin naturally starts to separate from the glans as an infant. Foreskin retraction is the process of sliding the foreskin down and uncovering the glans. Retraction of the foreskin should not be forced. Forcing a foreskin to retract can cause bleeding and discomfort. Most foreskins are able to be fully retracted around age 5. As children get older, retraction of the foreskin is important so that cleaning of the glans and removal of smegma can be done. Cleaning is imperative to prevention of infection.

### **To clean an uncircumcised penis:**

Gently pull the foreskin away from the tip of the penis.

Wash the tip of the penis and foreskin with soap and water.

Return the foreskin back over the tip of the penis.

### **Call the doctor if:**

It is painful or uncomfortable to urinate.

The foreskin becomes red, itchy or swollen.

**CUPID: Center for Urology and Pediatric Incontinence Disorders**

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