



Frequently Asked Questions for the open method (children above two and adults)

How much bleeding is normal after an open circumcision? *Some spotting of blood is normal. Actively dripping blood and/or soaking of the underwear with blood is abnormal and you should press firmly on the area you see it bleeding from for 15 minutes. If it does not stop then call us immediately on the appointment telephone number and if you cannot get hold of us go to A&E.*

I see a ring of black clots of black blood around the skin which falls off in my underwear? *This is again to be expected around the suture line. The black area should only be around the suture line where the surgeon has operated. The clot is the first thing to form allowing the skin to heal underneath it. All clot will eventually fall off.*

The skin appears white/yellow around the glue/stitches is this normal? *The thin layer of white or yellow around the scar line is a sign of healing and new epithelium will form to cover it.*

My penis is very bruised and swollen, is this normal? *Yes, the bruising appears as blood is absorbed and discolours the skin. The swelling appears as lymphatic channels need to re-form around the new suture line, until the new lymphatic channels are established, oedema is expected. The appearance can be quite alarming as the skin has fluid underneath it. This will take a few weeks to settle down.*

My skin is very sensitive, every time I get up or move I feel it rubbing, will this improve? *This tends to affect adults more. The skin is not used to being exposed as it has been covered by the foreskin for a number of years. This will improve. With time the epithelium of the glans skin becomes thicker and the sensitivity disappears.*

When Can I get back to usual activity? *If you are doing a physical job then we recommend one week off work. If you have an office job then two days is usually ok. Children may need 3-4 days off school depending on their discomfort. We would recommend only light activity for the first few days and avoiding any activity which aggravates the area. Intercourse is not recommended for 4-6 weeks. Driving is ok after 2 days or when you are comfortable in performing an emergency stop.*

The stitches are falling out bit by bit, is this normal? *Yes, the stitches dissolve as the skin heals. Some areas will heal quicker than others and therefore the stitches will dissolve at different rates. On average, it takes 4 weeks for the stitches to dissolve.*