

About Mohel Claudio J. Kogan

I became a medical doctor in Argentina in 1995 , after studying at the University of Buenos Aires, School of Medicine and doing internship at Baylor School of Medicine , in Houston, Texas. I was a student of Mohel Phillip Sherman and a year later, in 1997, I became a Mohel in Jerusalem, at the Bichur Cholim Hospital under the supervision of the Mohel Josef Halperin. I have performed circumcisions in Israel, Argentina and in the United States of America.

I was ordained as a Reform Rabbi at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio in May, 2003. My rabbinical thesis was about human cloning from a Jewish and medical standpoint. I am finishing a Master of Bioethics at School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

Preparation for the Bris

I will see your baby three times

- The first visit is always within a day or two after the baby is born.
- The second time is at the bris
- The third time is a day after the bris.

My instruments are autoclave steam sterilized to the standards of top American medical establishments and to the standards of the Public Health Department as well.

You will need to provide:

- Note from Baby's physician saying that the baby is healthy for circumcision
- Firm Pillow
- 1 box J&J 3"x3" First Aid gauze Pads
- 1 Tube Bacitracin Ointment
- 1 Bottle of Povidone Iodine 10% solution
- 3 cloth diapers
- Baby Gaunt / Gown
- Pampers and Wipes
- 1 Large Sturdy Table
- 1 Small Sturdy Table
- 6 Candles
- Challah and honey
- Kosher wine
- Talit and Kipot (not required)

Please feed your baby 3 hours before the bris and immediately after.

The Ceremony

I will arrive about 30 minutes prior to the start. At that time I will set up the ceremonial table and privately prepare the baby for the bris milah. A bathroom would be an ideal location. The preparations include a quick exam of the area and the isolation of the foreskin from the penis by a ring. Again, there may be slight discomfort but no pain involved.

When the guests have arrived I will introduce all the participants and their functions. I will explain the chair of Elijah and all other ceremonial objects and their purposes. The honored guests will light 6 candles.

The bris milah will then be done (it takes about 60 seconds). I will say the appropriate blessings and include you and any of your family you wish in the ceremony.

If there are special prayers or words you would like to include we can discuss them on my first visit.

Afterwards I will conduct the baby naming if you don't have your rabbi present. Then I will lead the guests in the prayers over the wine and food.

Aftercare

I will see the baby the day after the bris. My number is 732-801-3993.

Things to note:

- If the bandage falls off apply firm direct pressure using a sterile gauze to any area of continued oozing of blood for a period of 10-15 minutes. Do NOT examine the wound while applying the pressure.
- If the bleeding is persistent, or if one square of gauze is completely soaked, or if the diaper begins filling with blood call me, or your physician, or take the baby to the hospital! (This instruction is precautionary only, NOT to be routinely used.)
- Be alert to the signs of infection, such as increases in redness, pain or swelling. The baby may be irritable for 3-4 days and will heal in 12-14 days with residual swelling up to three weeks (3 wks) after the circumcision.
- If the baby is irritable you may dispense one single dose (0.4 ml or 1/3 of the eyedropper) of Infant Tylenol or Tempra drops 4 hours after the circumcision. Again, this is a one time dose of Tylenol or Tempra.
- The glans, or head, of the penis will be beefy red in color and the area immediately behind the glans will be quite swollen for several days. Small yellowish-white firm plaques, moist crusts or a whitish filmy material may occur near the wound or head of the penis. This plaque formation is normal and will eventually disappear. The plaque is not foreskin... foreskin does not grow back

How to care for the circumcision

For 10 days:

Wash the genitals gently after each large bowel movement (if it affects the genitals), using either a soft cotton cloth, cotton balls, or a sponge with a few drops of non-detergent soap (such as Ivory, Dove or Johnson's Baby Bath) in warm water, rinse, then gently dry. Continue to wash for a period of 10 days. (it is absolutely OK to wet & touch the penis) Do NOT use abrasive cleaning wipes on the circumcision wound!

If the gauze sticks to the wound, simply soak the baby's bottom in a basin of warm water. The baby may be fully bathed 10 days after the circumcision, if the cord is off. (i.e. when you have finished with the 10 days of dressing changes you may bath the baby.)

If the wound appears to be attaching or sticking to the head (glans) of the penis, firmly retract shaft skin 2 times per day, by grasping immediately beneath the healing wound and firmly pulling down toward the penile base on Days 2-10. Q-Tips may be used instead of fingers to grasp the adhering site. The head should always remain completely visible, i.e., exposed. If in doubt, bring the baby to a pediatrician for a quick examination.

When the baby urinates, simply change the dressing if soaked, washing is not necessary. The baby will NOT experience pain with urination... he cries because he is wet.

Day 1:

Apply a copious amount of neosporin-plus ointment to the center of a sterile gauze, and then gently place it onto the penis for the first day,

Day 2:

I will return the day after the bris.

The second day, use a 50% ointment mix (1/2 Neo/Myci-Plus + 1/2 Vaseline).

Day 3:

The third day, use just the Vaseline.

Days 4-10:

Continue with pure Vaseline for the remaining 8 days of ointment treatment for a total of ten days of care. The penis may remain in any position and the baby may sleep on his back or side. Do NOT tie anything around the wound... ever!