



UMBILICAL CORD CARE

Aster
HOSPITAL

We'll Treat You Well



Digital Version

WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE



Your child has a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher, or as directed by the provider. (Seek treatment right away. Fever in a newborn can be a sign of a serious infection.)



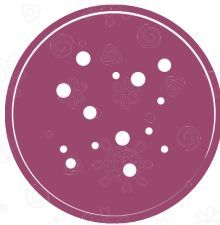
Your child's signs of infection get worse or do not improve within 2 days of starting treatment.



Your child won't stop crying or appears to be in pain when you touch the area around the cord and navel



There is increased bleeding from the cord



Your child develops a rash, pimples, or blisters around the navel.



Your child refuses to feed.



Your child is very sleepy or not moving around as much as usual.



Your child appears ill or has any other symptoms that concern you

GENERAL CARE

- Wash your hands well before and after caring for the cord.
- Clean the area around the cord as directed. You may be told to use a clean, moist cloth, alcohol pads, or a cotton swab dipped in alcohol. Be sure to remove all drainage and clean an inch around the base. If a little drainage is present you may be advised to use

- antibiotic ointment after each cleaning. Pat the area with a clean cloth and allow it to air-dry.
- Roll your child's diapers down below the belly button (navel) until the infection has healed. This helps prevent contamination from urine and stool. If needed, cut a notch in the front of the diapers to make a space for the cord.

- Avoid dressing your baby in clothing that is tight across the cord.
- Don't put your baby in bathwater until the infection has cleared and the cord has fallen off. Instead, bath your baby with a sponge or damp wash cloth.
- Don't use talc or other powders on the cord.
- Don't try to remove the cord. It will fall off on its own.
- Watch for continuing signs of infection. This includes redness, swelling, and cloudy, discolored, or foul-smelling drainage in the area around the cord.

WHY YOUR BABY HAS AN UMBILICAL CORD STUMP

During pregnancy, the umbilical cord supplies nutrients and oxygen to your developing baby. After birth, the umbilical cord is no longer needed - so it's clamped and snipped. This leaves behind a short stump.

TAKING CARE OF THE STUMP

Your baby's umbilical cord stump will change from bluish-white to black as it dries out and eventually falls off - usually within 1-2 weeks after birth. In the meantime, treat the area gently.

KEEP THE STUMP CLEAN

Parents were once instructed to swab the stump with rubbing alcohol after every diaper change. Researchers now say the stump might heal faster if left alone. If the stump becomes dirty or sticky, clean it with plain water - then dry it by holding a clean, absorbent cloth around the stump or fanning it with a piece of paper.

KEEP THE STUMP DRY

Expose the stump to the air to help dry

out the base. Keep the front of your baby's diapers folded down to avoid covering the stump. In warm weather, dress your baby in a diaper and T-shirt to improve air circulation.

SPONGE BATH

Sponge baths might be most practical during the healing process.

LET THE STUMP FALL OFF ON ITS OWN

Resist the temptation to pull off the stump yourself.

UMBILICAL CORD INFECTION (NEWBORN)

In most cases, the umbilical cord stump dries up and falls off the newborn within 1-2 weeks of life. Sometimes, however, an infection can develop. This may cause the area around the cord to swell and become inflamed, red, or tender. There may be cloudy, discolored, or foul-smelling discharge from the cord. There may also be oozing or slight bleeding.

To treat the umbilical cord infection, the healthcare provider may prescribe medicine and give instructions for cord care at home.

MEDICINES

Your child may be prescribed medicine for infection. If so, follow all instructions for giving this medicine to your child. Make sure your child completes all of the medicine, even if he or she appears to feel better.



PLEASE SCAN FOR
THE LOCATION

Aster HOSPITAL

We'll Treat You Well

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