Circumcision makes a baby boy 12 times more likely to get a MRSA infection.

Staph becomes a problem when it is a source of infection. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections are more difficult to treat than ordinary *Staph* infections because they are resistant to many types of antibiotics. Causes of MRSA include unnecessary antibiotic use, antibiotics in food (cattle, pigs, and chickens), and bacterial mutation. Risk factors include invasive procedures [circumcision] and young age – incomplete development of the immune system.


More information can be found at: www.nocirc.org and www.cirp.org

**NOCIRC pamphlets:** 12 pamphlets: 50¢ each or $30/100 (same or mixed) plus $5 S/H.

The **NOCIRC Resource Guide** lists the pamphlets, books, articles, newsletters, and videos available from NOCIRC and other resources as well. Free for SASE.

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The information in this pamphlet is not meant to replace the care and advice of your pediatrician.
What should I do if I suspect my child has staph or MRSA infection?

Contact your doctor immediately. Staph or MRSA is a fulminating (fast-developing), life-threatening infection. Your son may require hospitalization.

How is MRSA treated?

Abscesses should be drained. A culture should be taken to see which infectious organism is involved and a sensitivity test run to see which antibiotics can be used to treat the infection. Systemic MRSA frequently is treated in hospital with an intravenous antibiotic drip, using a powerful antibiotic.

Is MRSA really an emerging threat to all infants – especially recently circumcised baby boys?

Yes. Circumcision makes a baby boy 12 times more likely to get a MRSA infection. MRSA is an emerging threat in the 21st century, just as HIV was in the 1980s, and the risk increases as MRSA becomes more common. MRSA infection is spread in nurseries. Boys are more susceptible to skin colonization and infection. Infants have immature immune systems, so are less resistant to infection. A localized infection can quickly become a life-threatening, invasive systemic infection.

How do I protect my son from MRSA infection?

Hand washing is important in preventing staph infection, as is avoidance of medically-unnecessary, non-therapeutic invasive surgery, such as infant circumcision.