



Umbilical Cord (Delayed Separation)

When will the cord fall off?

Although most umbilical cords fall off between 10 and 14 days of age, an occasional cord may stay 3 weeks. Cords can also hang by a strand of tissue for 2 or 3 days. Eventually, they all fall off by themselves, so be patient.

How can I take care of my child?

Help the cord dry faster by keeping the diaper folded below it. If you are using disposable diapers, you can cut a wedge out of the diaper with scissors so the cord is not covered. Avoid tub bath until the area is healed.

When should I call my health care provider?

Call during office hours if:

- The cord is still attached after 3 weeks.
- You have other concerns or questions.

*NOTE: This information is provided as a public educational service. The information does not replace any of the instructions your physician gives you. If you have a medical emergency please call 911 or call the Hospital at (208) 529-6111. If you have questions about your child's care, please call Idaho Falls Pediatrics at (208) 522-4600.