



Umbilical Cord (Oozing)

Why is the umbilical cord oozing?

If the umbilicus (navel) is oozing or moist or has some dried pus on the surface, your baby probably has a mild infection from surface bacteria. It usually can be cleared up fairly quickly. Infection of the umbilicus must be treated with care because of the risk of spread to the liver or the abdomen. Oozing can happen after the cord has already fallen off, but more often the cord is still attached.

How can I take care of my child?

- **Cleansing the umbilicus** Air exposure and dryness help healing, so be sure to keep the diaper folded down below the cord area. Apply Bacitracin or polysporin ointment 4 times daily.
- **Common mistakes in the treatment of oozing umbilical cord** Do not put talcum powder on the umbilicus; it can cause irritation and tissue reaction. Ointments should be avoided, because they delay drying and healing.

When should I call Idaho Falls Pediatrics?

Call **IMMEDIATELY** if:

- Red streaks develop on the normal skin surrounding the navel.
- Pimples or blisters appear around the navel.
- Your baby's rectal temperature is over 100.4F (38.0C) or under 97.5F (36.8C).
- Your baby acts sick.

Call during office hours if:

- The umbilical area is not completely dry and clean after 2 days of this treatment.
- 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.