

# Balanitis

## Foreskin infection

Balanitis is an infection underneath the foreskin of the penis. It is most common in young children, and in children who have a tight foreskin.

Symptoms of balanitis include swelling and redness of the foreskin, which can be just at the opening or the entire foreskin. Sometimes pus can come out as well. Some children experience pain and stinging when peeing, and can even find it difficult to urinate. They can also experience pain in their penis as well as their foreskin. They can even have a fever.

Most of the time it is a mild infection that can be treated at home and gets better within a few days.

The most effective at home treatment is to bathe the child in a bath or tub with warm water for 15 minutes, 2-3 times a day. You can also use a gentle stream of water from the shower around the foreskin 2-3 times a day.

It is important to not try and retract/pull back the foreskin with force, this can cause scarring.

Because balanitis is painful, it's important to give your child pain relief, particularly before cleaning/bathing. It is a good idea to start with ibuprofen because it is also anti-inflammatory. There are also pain relieving creams/gels that can be bought without a prescription at the pharmacy.

If there is no improvement after 4 days, you should call your vårdcentral/primary care centre for advice.

**Children's emergency department**

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