

# Umbilical Cord - Bleeding

## Definition

- Bleeding occurs from cord's point of separation
- The navel is also called the belly button or umbilicus
- The piece of cord that stays on the baby is called the umbilical stump

## Health Information

### Causes

- Cord has fallen off or is getting ready to fall off
- Cord got caught on something
- Navel rubs against something, such as the diaper

## Care Advice

1. **Overview:**
  - A few drops of blood are normal after the cord falls off. A small amount of bleeding can also occur when the cord catches on something.
  - The diaper rubbing against the belly button may make it start up again.
  - Here is some care advice that should help.
2. **Bleeding:**
  - To stop bleeding, put direct pressure on the navel for 10 minutes. Use a clean cloth.
  - Clean the area before, rather than after.
  - Reason: This helps prevent bleeding from starting back up.
3. **Diaper:**
  - Prevent the diaper from rubbing on the cord.
  - Do this by folding the diaper down away from the belly button.
  - You can also cut a wedge out of the diaper. Then seal the edge with tape.
4. **What to Expect:**
  - The bleeding may come back a few times.
  - It should only be a small smear of blood.
  - The bleeding site should heal up by 2 days.

## Call Your Doctor If

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- Bleeding gets worse
- Few drops of blood but lasts more than 3 days
- Your baby starts to look or act abnormal
- You think your baby needs to be seen

### **Pediatric Care Advice**

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