



Dr JOHN CASSEY

Provider No. 430719T

General and Urological Paediatric Surgeon
Senior Conjoint Lecturer in Paediatrics

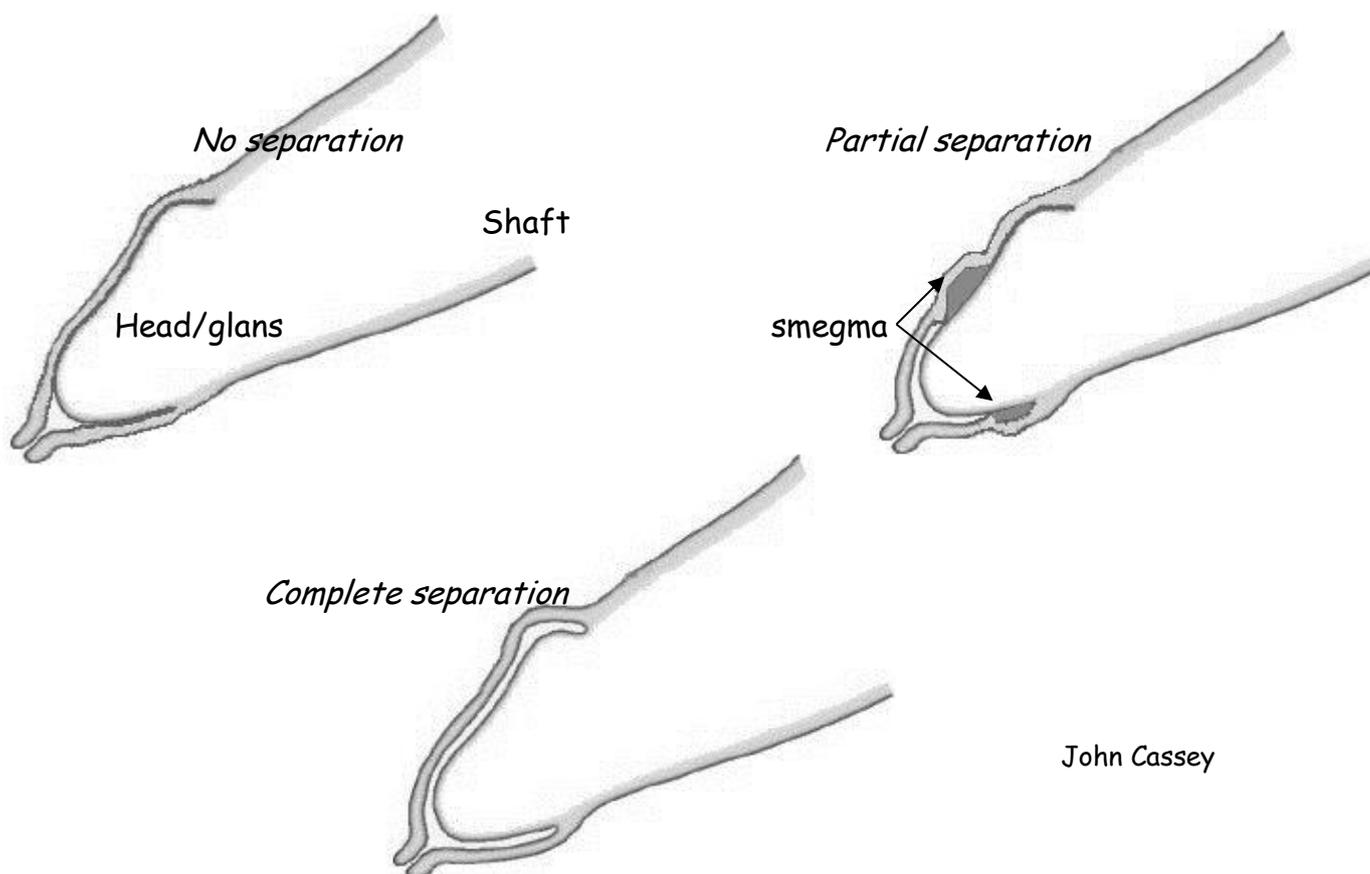
23 Veronica St
CARDIFF NSW 2285
Phone 02 49543888
Fax 02 49565409

Foreskins and how they eventually come back.....

There's a huge variation in what might be considered a normal foreskin. Males seem both very concerned about their penises and very reluctant to show them. Perhaps this is why we know so little about what is normal. In fact there are only 3 studies, which are worth taking notice of, that have appeared in the English medical literature!!!

The inner layer of the foreskin gradually separates from the head/glans of the penis during childhood and adolescence. It does this because dead skin cells (called keratin) and secretions from glands build up between the inner layer and the glans. The amount of 'paste' that forms (called smegma) depends on whether the foreskin can be retracted or not and on any hygiene routine. In some boys, smegma is obvious at the tip of the foreskin or on the nappy. People can easily get confused and think it's pus! In more extreme cases it looks like a large yellow/white lump on the penis. These creamy coloured collections can be quite large and stay until the inner layer separates, allowing them to be 'peed' out.

When will the foreskin separate completely? A rough rule of thumb is that more than 2/3rds of 6year olds have some bit stuck, with the rate dropping to 1/3 at 12 yrs and rare at 16yrs. Undoubtedly, a few men come to their first sexual experience with a bit still joined. This tears, causing some pain but it's now unstuck! Since we don't separate girl's hymens so their first sexual experience is pain free, I see no reason for interfering with boys. The adhesions don't go away with any sort of cream.



John Cassey