

special board (Fig. 7-11) or physiologic circumcision restraint chair. All of the equipment used for the procedure, such as gloves, instruments, dressings, and draping towels, must be sterile.



FIG 7-11 Proper positioning of infant in Circumstraint. (Photo by Paul Vincent Kuntz, Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, TX.)

The procedure involves freeing the foreskin from the glans penis by using a scalpel, Gomco or Mogen clamp (see [Cultural Considerations](#) box), or Plastibell. In the **Gomco technique**, the foreskin is clamped, cut with a scalpel, and removed; the clamp crushes the nerve endings and blood vessels, promoting hemostasis. In the **Plastibell procedure**, the foreskin is removed using a plastic ring and a string tied around the foreskin like a tourniquet. The excess foreskin is trimmed. In about 5 to 8 days, the plastic ring separates and falls off.

Cultural Considerations

Circumcision

In the Jewish culture, circumcision is performed during a ceremony called a berith, or brit, which takes place on the eighth day of life. A specially trained professional known as a mohel stretches the prepuce over the glans, pulling it through a slit in a shield (usually a Mogen clamp) and cutting it with a knife. The traditional technique is not sterile, and bleeding is controlled by tight bandaging around the penis ([Cohen, Drucker, Vainer, et al, 1992](#)). The infant may be given some sweet wine before the procedure. Blankets instead of