BERIT MILA: Choosing the right Mohel

Today is the 23 of Tamuz, 5771
In the following lines, I present some guidelines to help the parents realize **what is important to check** at the time they are choosing the Mohel ('circumcision surgeon').
The two basic elements to bear in mind when choosing a Mohel are: A. **The expertise** of the Mohel. B.
The personality and **religious character** of the Mohel (*"adam tob vetzadiq"*)
The Mohel should be **experienced and trained** in the performance of the Berit Mila. The Mohel is required to study Jewish law, and be **sensitive to the traditions of the community** where he performs the Berit Milah.
He should also be trained in the medical aspects of circumcisions.
1. Together with the family doctor, he has to **evaluate the infant's health** to decide if it is safe to perform the Berit Mila.
2. He needs to know **the basic of sterilization** and hygiene required at the time of the circumcision. (I will have B'H a special section on **Metziza**)
3. He needs to be an expert not only in **removing the foreskin** but also **the tissue around it (*peri'a*)**. This procedure is not done with instruments **but by hand**.
4. He needs to know how to **disinfect and cover the wound**, so it heals fast and well.
5. The Mohel is expected to **provide post-procedural care**, which is often done in conjunction with the family doctor.
6. The Mohel is supposed to **have basic training in first aid,** in case, God forbid, anything goes wrong.
Most Mohalim today are **affiliated with local hospitals** and/or **certified by Berit Mila Boards,** where they have got the basic training in circumcision performance, surgery and first aid. Many **Mohalim will post this information** in their web sites or cards.