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To Cut Or Not To Cut, The Circumcision Question: Mom Talk

In the U.S., an estimated 80 to 85 percent of men are circumcised. Up to 20 percent of those not clipped as a baby will eventually undergo the procedure later in life.

By [Erin Gallagher](#) | [Email the author](#) | May 11, 2011

450 Comments

Circumcision is an explosive topic for a lot of people.

The decision to remove the foreskin from a baby boy's penis may involve religious beliefs, hygiene and health factors.

In biblical times, routine circumcision derived from a pact between God and Abraham.

"Then God said to Abraham, 'As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. This is my covenant with you and your

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descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised'." Genesis 17: 9-10.

In modern America, circumcision is widely practiced among most men just because boys don't want to look different in the locker room. When our son was born, having him undergo surgery on his penis was a big decision for me. It was an automatic yes for my husband, because of the locker room thing.

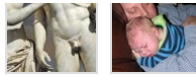
However, having lived outside the U.S., I realized that much of the world does not get clipped just because. Having unyielding trust in my doctor, we turned to him first for information.

Dr. Andrew A. Roth is an assistant professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center. Dr. Roth told us the number one reason why he recommends circumcision is the statistical reduction in sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

When I asked Dr. Roth for details to help inform others, he gave me an official reprint from UpToDate, an information service for medical subscribers. The topic of circumcision in baby boys dated January 2011 was written by Dr. Laurence S. Baskin.

The report says that there are several benefits to the procedure. Uncircumcised boys are at a greater risk of urinary tract infections. Cancer is another risk. Although cancer of the penis is rare, the uncircumcised are at higher risk, the report said. "Cervical cancer is more common in women whose male sexual partners are not circumcised," according to Baskin.

In terms of sexually transmitted diseases, circumcision may reduce the risk, but does not eliminate it. Many men who have had the procedure have also had an STD. Lifestyle factors, especially the number of sexual partners, are far more important variables, Baskin explained.



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number of sexual partners, are far more important variables, Baskin explained.

“Studies suggest that circumcision helps decrease the risk of acquiring some sexually transmitted diseases, such as trichomonas, human papillomavirus, and HIV,” Baskin said. “Circumcision may lower the risk of acquiring a STD, but it does not eliminate it.”

What surprised me the most was the hygiene issue.

Everyone I talk to about the subject points to hygiene as the reason. However, the fact of the matter is that the medical issue has not been well studied, according to Baskin. There is no evidence of it.

The procedure is fairly routine. There are hardly ever any complications—about two to five in 1,000 cases, Baskin claims. These are typically minor problems, such as an infection.

Another concern is sexual pleasure. The skin that is removed has specialized sensory tissue, potentially making the penis less sensitive. However, I think your basic man-on-the-street doesn't have a complaint.

Being a girl, I am not a good judge as to the gravity of being hazed in the locker room.

I'm not inclined to make my kid go through permanently altering surgery on a very important body part just because the other boys are doing it. For me, the medical facts were the clincher.

Despite my initial objections, I succumbed to the two people I trusted most in life: my husband and Dr. Roth. More importantly, I trusted them both with the life and future of my son.

During the procedure, the baby was fine. I was the one who cried.

Did you or do you plan to circumcise your son? Why or why not? [Tell us in the comments.](#)

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Comments (450)

Pete

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9:37am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

"Up to 20 percent of those not clipped as a baby will eventually undergo the procedure later in life"...where in the world does that statistic come from? Almost no one is circumcised later, except in Muslim and Jewish cultures (and the Philippines).

[Log in to reply](#)

Pete

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:39am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

In addition, the 80 to 85 percent figure is misleading; nowadays, the CDC estimates only 33% of babies are cut.

[Log in to reply](#)

Craig Ginsberg

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9:57am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

ALL of these alleged benefits have been thoroughly discredited by prestigious pediatric organizations around the world including the AAP. The current AAP statement says the unproven benefits do not exceed the known harms losses and risks. Please read the summary article here: intactipedia.org (under construction)

[Log in to reply](#)



Craig Ginsberg

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10:18am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Circumcision in Christianity

If you are a Christian, you are entirely free of any religious reasons for circumcision. In fact, historically, Christians have been specifically forbidden to practice circumcision. I suspect that when some misinformed Christians imagine they have a religious reason for circumcising their children, they are really just grasping for additional excuses to follow the false medical indoctrination they have received their entire lives.

Christians who mistakenly think that they have religious justification for circumcision ought to read the new testament. Here it is clear that the early Christian church, under the guidance of ST. Paul, abolished circumcision. Throughout his epistles, St. Paul took every opportunity to condemn circumcision, as the following quotations prove:

"Behold, I, Paul, tell you that if you be circumcised, Christ will be of no advantage to you.(Galatians 5:2)

"I just wish that those troublemakers who want to mutilate you by circumcision would mutilate themselves." (Galatians 5:12, New Living Translation (©2007))

And even those who advocate circumcision don't really keep the whole law. They only want you to be circumcised so that can brag about it and claim you as their disciples. (Galatians 6:13)

Craig Ginsberg

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10:19am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

For there are many who rebel against right teaching; they engage in useless talk and deceive people. This especially true for those who insist on circumcision for salvation. They must be silenced. By their wrong teaching, they have already turned whole families away from the truth. Such teachers only want your money(Titus 1:10- 11)"

"Watch out for those wicked men – dangerous dogs, I call them – who say you must be circumcised. Beware of the evil doers. Beware of the mutilation. For it isn't the cutting of our bodies that makes us children of God; it is worshiping him with our spirits. (Phil 3:2-3)"

It is true that Jesus was probably circumcised, but this is because his parents were Jews. Jesus

was denied any choice in the matter. Besides, Christians are hardly required to copy every thing that happened to Jesus. Jesus never advocated circumcision. After, all the earliest Christians-- ones who actually walked with Jesus-- abolished circumcision:

“His disciples said to him: is circumcision useful or not? He said to them: If it were useful, their father would beget them from the mother (already) circumcised. But the true circumcision in the Spirit has proved useful in every way.(2)”

Craig Ginsberg

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10:19am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

The founders of Christianity believed that God himself condemned circumcision as a blasphemy invented by foolish men. The New Testament Apocryphal Book of Esra reports the word of God, which came to Esra, the son of Chusis, I the days of Nebuchadnezzar thus:

“when you bring offerings to me, I will turn my face from you; for your feasts and new moons and circumcisions of the flesh I have not asked(3)”

Early Christians took the abolition of circumcision very seriously, and the early Church quickly passed laws banning circumcision under the penalty of death. The original church laws against circumcision read:

“Roman citizens, who suffer that they themselves or their slaves be circumcised in accordance with Jewish custom, are exiled perpetually to an island and their property confiscated; the doctors suffer capital punishment. If Jews shall circumcise purchased slaves of another nation, they shall be banished or suffer capital punishment(4)”

The Church was also very concerned about Jews circumcising Christians or citizens of any other sect. Consequently, they passed laws protecting people from such an assault. The Church law states:

“Jews who circumcise a Christian or commit him to be circumcised, their property shall be confiscated and they shall be perpetually banished.(5).

Craig Ginsberg

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10:20am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Over the centuries, the Catholic Church has passed many laws banning circumcision of children and adults(19). Martin Luther Preached against circumcision on many occasions(20). Even more recent branches of Christianity have taken a firm stand against circumcision. For instance, the holiest scriptures of the Mormons, the Book of Mormon(21) and the Doctrine and Covenants(22), both condemn and forbid circumcision. Thus, the traditional Christian response to circumcision has been to reject it as an insult to the wisdom of God in designing the human body.

Craig Ginsberg

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10:21am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Further Regarding Judaism

Hospital circumcisions have no religious validity any way.

If a Jew was circumcised in a hospital as many are today: do you think they should be denied the right to a religious circumcision? A consenting adult who has reviewed their faith could make this decision on their own giving both religious freedom or the freedom to genital intactness for the individual. Would it not be better to discourage non consenting infant circumcision in a non religious hospital setting?

Further more some research I have come across seems to question the tradition of circumcision as a tenant of Judaism.

Most people assume that circumcision has always been a part of Jewish life. In Genesis 17, we read that the Lord appeared to Abraham when he was ninety-nine years old and made a covenant with him, agreeing that he would be the God of the Jews and the Jews would worship no other god but him. To Seal the bargain. Jehovah is reported to have said to Abraham:

"IN YOUR ARTICLE ABOVE"

Craig Ginsberg

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10:21am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Biblical scholars, however, have known for a long time that this passage was never in the

original Bible. It was added about 500 B.C., over one thousand years after the time of Abraham. Scholars David Rosenberg and Harold Bloom have published a full translation of the original version of Genesis, which dates from about 950 B.C. Here, Chapter 17 is conspicuously absent. All we read is that

“it was that day Yahweh cut a covenant with Abram:”I gave this land to your seed, from the river of Egypt to the great river, Euphrates—of the Kenite, and Kenizzite, the Kadmonite; of Hittite, the Perizzite, the Rephaim; of the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Girashite, the Jubisite(23)”

As you can see, there is no mention of circumcision as a sign of this bargain. Along with biblical scholars, the only conclusion is that circumcision was never originally part of Judaism. Why, then, was circumcision incorporated into priestly Judaism?

Rabbi and historian Lawrence A. Hoffman explains that by the late fifth century B.C., at the time of the Jews from Babylonian captivity, the priesthood tried to confirm their status as the dominant political force among the Israelites. (24) they did this by instituting a temple-centered sacrificial cult into which newborn males were initiated by circumcision.

Craig Ginsberg

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10:22am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

They created the Abrahamic circumcision myth and inserted it into the most important part of Genesis, pretending that it had been there all along. The priesthood maintained their grip on power until about A.D. 71, when they were overthrown. Circumcision has remained a Hebrew practice ever since.

References:

2.Gospel of Thomas 53. In: Schneemelcher W, Wilson R. Mcl (eds). 2 vols. New Testament Apocrypha. Chambridge: J. Clkarke & Co; Louisville, Ky: Westminster/John Knox Press. 1992-1992. Vol.2, pp.125

3.Esra 5:30-31. The Fifth and Sixth Books of Esra 5:30-31. The Fifth and Sixth Books of Esra. In: Schneemelcher W, Wilson R. Mcl (eds). 2 vols. New Testament Apocrypha. Chambridge: J. Clkarke & Co; Louisville, Ky: Westminster/John Knox Press. 1992-1992. Vol.2, pp.125

4.Paulus, Sententiar 5:22:3-4. In: Linder A. (ed). The Jews in roman Imperial legislation. Detroit: Wayne State University press; 1987. pp. 117-20.

5.Collectio Tripartita, book 1: from the codex. Title 9, translation 70. Linder A (ed). The Jews in

the Legal Sources of the Early Middle Ages. Detroit: Wayne State University Press; 1997. p.49.
6.The canons of the holy and altogether august apostles. In: percival HR (ed). The seven Ecumenical Councils of the undivided Church. Vol.14 of: A select Library of Nicene and Post-Nicene fathers of the Christian Church 2nd series. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons; 1900. p.595.

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10:23am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

- 20.see: Pelikan J, Oswald HC, Grimm HJ, Lehmann HT (eds). Luthers Works. 55 vols. Philadelphia: Fortress press; 1971. vol. 2, p. 361; vol. 47, pp. 88, 152-9; vol. 54, p. 239.
- 21.Moroni 8:8. The Book of Mormon. Translated by Joseph Smith First published in 1830. Salt Lake City: the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1921. p516.
- 22.Section 74:2-7. Doctrine and Covenants. Salt Lake City: Desert News Company; 1880. pp. 260-1
23. Rosenberg D, Bloom H (trans and eds). The Book of J. New York: Grove Weidenfeld;1990. p.79.
- 24.Hoffman LA. Covenant of Blood: Circumcision and Gender in Rabbinic Judaism. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press; 1996.

Craig Ginsberg

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10:25am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

STDs?:

[http://intactipedia.org/index.php?title=Circumcision_and_Sexually_Transmitted_Diseases_\(STD%E2%80%99s\)](http://intactipedia.org/index.php?title=Circumcision_and_Sexually_Transmitted_Diseases_(STD%E2%80%99s))

HPV?:

http://intactipedia.org/index.php?title=Circumcision_and_HP

UTI?

[http://intactipedia.org/index.php?title=Circumcision_and_Urinary_Tract_Infections\(UTI\)](http://intactipedia.org/index.php?title=Circumcision_and_Urinary_Tract_Infections(UTI))

Anatomically correct genitalia is "dirty"?

http://intactipedia.org/index.php?title=Immunological_and_Protective_Function_of_the_Foreskin

Summary and explanation of foreskin and its function:

http://intactipedia.org/index.php?title=An_Introductory_Summary_of_Circumcision

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whatUneverknew

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10:38am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

What statistics of reduced STD? The US has HIGHER STDs than equally medicalized nations who do not circumcise. Anyone want something properly researched with citations and source links?

<http://www.youtube.com/user/whatUneverknew#p/u/23/oxBQdWDHAhk>

[Log in to reply](#)

Diane

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1:42pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

I won't even justify this load of poop with an argument. I just say "WRONG" try researching before you write. From the proud wife of an intact man and the proud mother of an intact son.

[Log in to reply](#)

Anna

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:27pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

.... are you so incompetent that you can't trust your own child to wash himself? Maybe you should yank his fingernails too, since you can't be bothered with parenting. People who cut parts from other people's bodies should not be breeding. Please go get sterilized immediately.

[Log in to reply](#)

Jeff

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:51pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

I was circumcised as an infant and I wish that I had not been. It should have been my choice.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:38 pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Craig, and all of you other foreskin lovers -- the health benefits of circumcision have been acknowledged:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/circumcision.htm>

<http://www.auanet.org/content/guidelines-and-quality-care/policy-statements/c/circumcision.cfm>

There are more organizations that acknowledge the benefits. Bill & Melinda Gates are funding circumcisions in Africa to reduce the risk of HIV. AIDS expert Anthony Fauci acknowledges circumcision can reduce the risk of HIV infection by 50-60%.

If you weren't so adamantly against circumcision you might take a closer look at the facts. Only the fringe people against circumcision doubt the benefits.

If you are interested in seeing the evidence go here: <http://circinfo.net/>

You will find references that support what the author says.

The anti-circ sites never provide evidence for what they believe. It's all emotional stuff.

Circumcision is a vaccination for life.

It is true that the American Association of Pediatrics neither recommends nor advises against circumcision.

They have been on the fence. They are planning to update their stance this year based on recent studies that show the health benefits of circumcision.

Erin you did the right thing by seeking out the facts. And you made the right decision having your son circumcised.

I was not circumcised at birth. I had it done in my 20's and I see no downside. I wish it had been done at birth.

[Log in to reply](#)

what Uneverknew

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3:45pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

You say "foreskin lover" like it's a bad thing. ROFLMAO!!! Am I a labia lover if I say girls shouldn't have their parts chopped off against their will? Is it bad to be a labia lover? Some other people in history have used the ___lover terminology in an attempt to ostracise and vilify. They're just that, HISTORY.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

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4:35pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

I say foreskin lover because that seems to be what it's about for the anti-circ people. No evidence however compelling will convince them that there are health benefits to circumcision.

[Log in to reply](#)

Nate

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5:20pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

My dear nobody the reason for that is simple while there might be some benefits to removing the foreskin the negative aspects of removing the foreskin outweigh them especially for minors. As an intactavist I'm not in love with the foreskin I'm in love with human rights and cutting of or cutting away of the genitals of girls or boys no matter how minor the assault is it is still mutilation not only of the body but also of human rights.

Pete

Flag as inappropriate

5:11pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

I guess that's because many types of mutilation have been said to have "health benefits" (even though the vast majority of doctors in the world says circumcision has none), but they're still illegitimate because they're...well...mutilation.

Log in to reply

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

5:18pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mutilation? Now you're using scare tactics. Do you have any evidence to support your claim that the vast majority of doctors in the world say that there are NO health benefits to circumcision?

First you'll have to define "vast majority". Then I think you'll have a big problem finding reputable doctors who say there are NO health benefits.

There are clearly well-documented health benefits to circumcision and I've pointed you to that documented research.

Log in to reply

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:11pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

It would be more accurate to say, as the Royal Australasian College of Physicians note, that: "the frequency of diseases modifiable by circumcision, the level of protection offered by circumcision and the complication rates of circumcision do not warrant routine infant circumcision."

<http://tinyurl.com/3cw7jju>

or the Royal Dutch Medical Association: "There is no convincing evidence that circumcision is useful or necessary in terms of prevention or hygiene. Partly in the light of the complications which can arise during or after circumcision, circumcision is not justifiable except on medical/therapeutic grounds. Insofar as there are medical benefits, such as a possibly reduced risk of HIV infection, it is reasonable to put off circumcision until the age at which such a risk is relevant and the boy himself can decide about the intervention, or can opt for any available alternatives."

<http://tinyurl.com/3aj7854>

The truth of the matter is that any potential health benefits are trivial outside of some very specific contexts. Only in places like Africa with high HIV prevalence, where they'd try anything to stem the

spread of HIV (no matter how half baked it is), and American, where it is cultural familiar, that you'll find people up selling circumcision.

Tora Spigner

Flag as inappropriate

5:27pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

There is no medical reason to circumcise a child. The "benefits" are based on flawed data and anecdotal evidence. In countries where men are not routinely circumcised and given adequate sexual education, with the blessings of the government and the church, have less STDs, less HIV and less teenage pregnancy! Condom use is a better option to prevent these things vs cutting off healthy, functioning tissue. We don't cut off parts of your girls to prevent these things so why is it ok to cut our boys? If a man wants to be circumcised as his choice, I say more power to him! If he had already been circumcised as a helpless infant, he would not have that choice. His body, his Choice.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

5:56pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Flawed data? The only place I see anyone saying that is from anti-circ web sites. As I've already pointed out the CDC and AUA acknowledge the life-long health benefits of circumcision. Also, many reputable researchers agree about the studies being valid. There's always the fringe out there that will disagree. I have no problem with that as long as people can support their opinions with data and not just emotions.

I totally agree with you about condom use.

But for the moment, let's say there's a vaccine which reduces the risk of contracting HIV by 50-60%. Wouldn't you be for that? From the evidence, circumcision IS that vaccine at the moment.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

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6:00pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Someone mentioned that the circumcision rate in the US is high, yet the US has a high rate of HIV infection.

Let's look a little closer at that. When HIV was first discovered, it was thought to be a gay disease.

But it was

also thought that it would soon penetrate the heterosexual population. That never happened?

Why not? Could it be because of the high rate of circumcision in the US? That would match what the field studies have shown, i.e., there's a 50-60% reduced risk of female to male transmission of HIV.

The other claim about HIV being so prevalent in the US ignores the fact that most HIV infections are from people who are anal receptive and IV drug users. Circumcision will not help either of those groups.

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

6:59pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

nobody said: "Let's look a little closer at that. When HIV was first discovered, it was thought to be a gay disease. But it was also thought that it would soon penetrate the heterosexual population. That never happened? Why not? Could it be because of the high rate of circumcision in the US? "

An interesting supposition nobody. Perhaps then you could tell us all why the US has the highest rate of HIV infection in the first world along with the highest rate of circumcision. In just about all other first world countries, circumcision is mostly unknown (except for religious nuts) yet their rate of HIV is often more than 1/3 ours.

<http://tinyurl.com/34tb4n>

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:39am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Dear Joe, I think I already told you why:

The other claim about HIV being so prevalent in the US ignores the fact that most HIV infections are from people who are anal receptive and IV drug users. Circumcision will not help either of those groups.

As for other countries that don't circumcise, I think you'll need to do a study to prove your claim that they have lower rates of HIV. I don't even know if your claim is true. If it is, there could be any number of reasons why. One might be that they teach safe sex at a young age.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:29pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

nobody said: "The other claim about HIV being so prevalent in the US ignores the fact that most HIV infections are from people who are anal receptive and IV drug users. Circumcision will not help either of those groups."

This statement is just as valid for most other first world countries where circumcision is unknown.

nobody said: "As for other countries that don't circumcise, I think you'll need to do a study to prove your claim that they have lower rates of HIV. I don't even know if your claim is true. "

For someone who claims to have done the research, I would expect that you would know the HIV prevalences since it directly impacts applicability. That information is already available, you just have to look for it. Of course when you do find it, you'll discover that rates of heterosexual HIV in most first world countries is equal to or less than the same rates in the US. That's why the health organizations in those countries dismiss circumcision as an approach that would provided any meaningful impact in those countries. Groups like the AFAO: <http://tinyurl.com/m2d3kb> Perhaps their clear thinking is the fact that circumcision has either been always rare or recently become rare.

nobody said: "If it is, there could be any number of reasons why. One might be that they teach safe sex at a young age."

Sounds like a better plan to me, I'd certainly prefer it.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:51pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Joe, not sure what your'e talking about. I didn't claim to do any research other than to read what's been published.

My statement is about determining why (if it's true as you say) that HIV is less prevalent in countries

with low circ rates. Is circumcision the determining factor or is there something else?

We won't know the answer until a good study is done.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

11:01pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

nobody opined: "Joe, not sure what your'e talking about. I didn't claim to do any research other than to read what's been published."

Ah no critical thinking, that explains a lot.

nobody opined: "My statement is about determining why (if it's true as you say) that HIV is less prevalent in countries with low circ rates. Is circumcision the determining factor or is there something else? We won't know the answer until a good study is done."

Because context matters. This has been done by groups like the AFAO: <http://tinyurl.com/m2d3kb>

"An Australian-born man is estimated to have a 0.02% (0.0002) risk of HIV acquisition if he does not

inject drugs or have sex with men.

This very low risk means that the population health benefit of an

intervention like generalised circumcision programs would be negligible. "

This situation would be similar in other first world countries, negligible effect.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:03am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Joe,

While it's true that the absolute risk of HIV in developed countries is relatively low, and hence the potential impact of circumcision is similarly low, I'd appreciate a source for the following claim:

"rates of heterosexual HIV in most first world countries is equal to or less than the same rates in the US. That's why the health organizations in those countries dismiss circumcision as an approach that would provided any meaningful impact in those countries." -- I'd really appreciate it if you would provide a source for that claim, because it seems so unlikely that these health organisations would be so ignorant of basic epidemiology that they would draw such conclusions from between-country comparisons.

Craig Ginsberg

Flag as inappropriate

7:40pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

From <http://stopthecut.org/blog/?p=91>

Violation of physical integrity'

Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) to discourage non-therapeutic circumcision of male minors

Utrecht, 27 May 2010 – The official standpoint of KNMG and other related medical/scientific organisations is that non-therapeutic circumcision of male minors is a violation of children's rights to autonomy and physical integrity. KNMG is urging a strong policy of deterrence.

KNMG is calling upon doctors to actively and insistently inform parents who are considering the procedure of the absence of medical benefits and the danger of complications. "The rule is: do not operate on healthy children", says Arie Nieuwenhuijzen Kruseman, chairman of the KNMG. "It is an unfortunate fact that any surgical procedure can cause complications. Doctors accept this to a certain extent because there are medical reasons for the procedure. However, no complications can be justified that occur as the result of an operation that is medically unnecessary."

The KNMG sees good reasons for the statutory prohibition of non-therapeutic circumcision of male minors, but fears that the procedure will then be driven underground, leading to an increase in the number of complications.

[Log in to reply](#)

Craig Ginsberg

Flag as inappropriate

7:42pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

@Nobody. Lets discuss the allegations levelled against the foreskin one at a time. you start with one claim and we will see where the medical literature brings us.

[Log in to reply](#)

Craig Ginsberg

Flag as inappropriate

7:43pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

The neuro-anatomy of the penis has been rigorously studied by respected anatomists of all kinds. The component tissues that comprise the foreskin are richly innervated with the greatest quantity and variety of sensory nerve endings than any other part of the penis; the foreskin can discern the slightest pressure, the lightest touch, the smallest motion, the subtlest changes in temperature, and the finest gradations in texture.(52,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62) Many people are surprised to discover that the glans or “head” of the penis is actually the least sensitive part and is insensitive to light touch, heat, cold and even pin-pricks.(52,61,62) Permanent unnatural exposure of the penis further desensitizes the glans, the foreskin keeps the glans healthy, clean, shiny, warm, soft, moist, and sensitive; with out the foreskin the glans are scared, dry, cracked, and pitted. Most notably, circumcision drastically reduces the glans sensitivity to vibration.(63)

To no surprise, this information was corroborated in a 2006 study which measured the sensitivity of all the parts of the penis. Researchers used an extremely sensitive pressure sensing probe while each test subject, whose view was blocked with a screen, reported a sensation of touch. To demonstrate precision they took each measurement multiple times. The results were statistically consistent. They concluded:

Craig Ginsberg

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7:43pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

"Five locations on the uncircumcised penis that are routinely removed at circumcision were more sensitive than the most sensitive location on the circumcised penis[...] The glans in the circumcised male is less sensitive to fine-touch pressure than the glans of the uncircumcised male[...]The most sensitive location on the circumcised penis is the circumcision scar on the ventral surface [...] When compared to the most sensitive area of the circumcised penis, several locations on the uncircumcised penis that are missing from the circumcised penis were significantly more sensitive."(62)

(52) Taylor JR, Lockwood AP, Taylor AJ. The prepuce: specialized musocsa of the penis and its loss to circumcision. Br J Urol 1996 Feb;77(2): 291-5

(53)Jefferson G. The peripenic muscle; some observations on the anatomy of phimosis. Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics 1916 Aug;23(2):177-81.

(54)K. O'Hara and J. O'Hara. The effect of male circumcision on the sexual enjoyment of the female partner. BJU International, Volume 83, Supplement 1, Pages 79-84, January 1, 1999.

Craig Ginsberg

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7:43pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

(55) Moldwin RM, Valderrama E. Immunohistochemical analysis of nerve distribution patterns within preputial tissues. J Urol 1989 Apr;141(4):499A. (abstract)

(56) Dogiel AS. Die Nervenendigungen in der Schleimhaut der asseren Genitalorgane des Menschen. [The nerve endings in the afferent mucosa of the human genital organs.] Arch f. mkr. Anat. 1893; 41: 585-612.

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(62)Morris L. Sorrells, James L. Snyder. Fine-touch pressure thresholds in the adult penis . BJU 2006 Oct:22, pp. 864-869

(63)Yang, DM; Lin H, Zhang B, Guo W (April 2008). "Circumcision affects glans penis vibration perception threshold". Zhonghua Nan Ke Xue 14 (4): 328–330

Craig Ginsberg

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7:52pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

HIV is a serious threat, and i do not want to flood this with HIV posts so i will just try to give a few sources.

"How the circumcision solution in Africa will increase HIV infections"

<http://www.publichealthinafrica.org/index.php/jphia/article/view/jphia.2011.e4>

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201105050159.html>

some of the RCT authors have dubious affiliations with circumfetishist groups like the gical society. Ad hominen attacks are not needed but you should know about this.

Frank OHara

Flag as inappropriate

7:52pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

@Nobody: "That never happened? Why not? Could it be because of the high rate of circumcision in the US?"

No, the circumcision rate has nothing to do with it. Gays often have/had multiple concurent sexual partners while heretosexuals don't to the same degree. Gays literally set themselves up for it making the spread quick through that population while the general reluctance to do this halted the spread through the heretosexual population. HIV caught us by surprise. When it started, we didn't know what it was and how it was spread and the dangerous practices continued. There was no warning.

If the studies that circumcision provides a 60% protective factor were true, there would be virtually no HIV in the US. The virus would simply run into continious road blocks and could not spread as it has.

Take into account that the polio vaccine was only 70% effective yet wiped the disease from the population in a single generation. If male circumcision were effective as claimed, we should see similar results and The US would have been spared this deadly disease.

*

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Craig Ginsberg

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8:01pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

when 50-60% is extrapolated for a life time risk it only provides a 10% protection. the 50-60% number come from the RCTs which have numerous problems we can discuss if "nobody" wants too. The studies only lasted 21 months and the study was ended before the results can turn on the researchers with known biases. In one study the circed men where getting HIV at higher rate each time there seropositivity was assessed. Tell me when you were circed did you return to normal sexual behaviour immediately?

Craig Ginsberg

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:06pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

the plain fact is we do not have any biologic plausibility and the studies we have are limited. And we have no idea how this effects female and homosexual HIV acquisition. Male acquisition makes up only a small fraction of all infections in Africa.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:24am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Frank, how do you know that the high circumcision rate in the US has nothing to do with the low rate of heterosexual infection?

For the record, the polio vaccine is much more effective than you claimed.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polio_vaccine

"The Salk vaccine had been 60 - 70% effective against PV1 (poliovirus type 1), over 90% effective against PV2 and PV3, and 94% effective against the development of bulbar polio.[26]"

"When the current formulation of IPV is used, 90% or more of individuals develop protective antibody to all three serotypes of poliovirus after two doses of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), and at least 99% are immune to poliovirus following three doses."

Frank OHara

Flag as inappropriate

8:12pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Craig: Actually the studies were originally scheduled to last 24 months but were ended at 11 months. It is suspected that the rates of infections were beginning to climb and the study was ended before they could.

The researchers, Robert Bailey and Daniel Halperin have been radical circumcision promoters for at least 30 years. Bailey is a professor of immunology and knows the effect a 60% protective factor would have in the spread of the disease. It would practically eliminate it in The US. Since this has not happened and the disease has spread freely, the only logical conclusion is that male circumcision has no value in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:30am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"Craig: Actually the studies were originally scheduled to last 24 months but were ended at 11 months." -- Wrong. The South African trial, for example, was stopped at an average follow-up period of 18.1 months. <http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pmed.0020298>

"It is suspected that the rates of infections were beginning to climb and the study was ended before they could." -- By whom and on the basis of what evidence?

"The researchers, Robert Bailey and Daniel Halperin have been radical circumcision promoters for at least 30 years." -- Did you even take the trouble to check the author lists? Halperin wasn't involved with any of the trials. Bailey was involved with one of the three trials, and is hardly a "radical circumcision promoter".

"Bailey is a professor of immunology and knows the effect a 60% protective factor would have in the spread of the disease. It would practically eliminate it in The US." -- utter nonsense. One modelling study predicted that: "With 80% male circumcision uptake, the reductions in [HIV] prevalence ranged from 45% to 67%."

Dave S.

Flag as inappropriate

9:11pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

I am a man that was circumcised as a baby and I really wish I was NOT. I wish I could have experienced sex the way it was intended. But more importantly, I was denied my choice to keep a functional, natural, healthy body part.

[Log in to reply](#)

James Loewen

Flag as inappropriate

1:42am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Forced genital cutting (aka circumcision) is an aggravated sexual assault. Cutting children is child abuse.

[Log in to reply](#)

Dan Bollinger

Flag as inappropriate

6:52am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Having a boy? Parents considering infant circumcision should REALLY check out Circumcision Decision-Maker. It takes you through each of your reasons for wanting circumcision one at a time and then gives you some expert opinion. It also has a lot of information on penis anatomy, how the foreskin develops, circumcision, and care of the intact penis including washing instructions.

<http://circumcisiondecisionmaker.com>

[Log in to reply](#)

Tina Tuszynski

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9:00am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Regardless of the controversy over the medical benefits, an uncircumcised boy is still going to be in the minority. Children can be incredibly cruel and someone who is different is fair game for teasing and bullying. In my opinion, I would not want to subject my child to having to deal with all that teasing from other children.

[Log in to reply](#)

Craig Ginsberg

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:51am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

the circ rate is down to 33.5% in 2009 according to the CDC. None of my intact friends have ever been made fun of. We do not shower in public schools any more.

Craig Ginsberg

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:52am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

circumcised children can also be made fun of. what if you move to Europe or California? Your child is now branded as a member of a society he did not ascribe to.

Hugh7

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:51pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

With the rate somewhere around or below 50%, an intact boy is going to be among others. The teasing could well go the other way. And which would you rather have to tell him - "Yours looks

different because their parents all had part cut off their [euphemism]s, but we didn't"? Or "Yours looks different because their parents didn't have part cut off their [euphemism]s but we did (because we didn't want you to look different)"?

Frances Magriz

Flag as inappropriate

9:05am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

I would have to agree with most. I was at that point one time deciding whether I should circumsize my boy. Dr's kept saying yes for the reasons you mentioned above and I said I needed more time to think about it. When I did my research I found amazing statics that showed I should not circumsize my son. The only reason that should be considered is if he is having complications as he gets older such as, recurring infections.

Ironically I spoke to a male adult who said he did it once he was an adult and it was the worst decision he made. The reason he did it was because he didn't want his girlfriend to feel odd or weird about it so he did the surgery. He said when a circumzision is performed millions of nerves are cut along with the skin resulting in no feeling at all (sexually speaking) and it was the worst thing he did in his life. In addition, I made the mistake of seeing a video when a baby is circum sized and it was noted that is the worse pain a baby can feel, so I passed on that decision. There were many statistics showing why the penis should be left alone and everything you wrote in your article was the complete opposite.

Log in to reply

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

9:54am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"ronically I spoke to a male adult who said he did it once he was an adult and it was the worst decision he made. [...] He said when a circumzision is performed millions of nerves are cut along with the skin resulting in no feeling at all (sexually speaking) and it was the worst thing he did in his life." -- how odd. Krieger et al reported on the circumcisions of 1,391 adult men. 64% described their penis as more sensitive *after* circumcision.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18761593>

Hugh7

Flag as inappropriate

4:06pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Hardly odd at all. The men in the Krieger study were all adult Kenyan volunteers for circumcision who hoped it would protect them against HIV. Men who appreciated their foreskins had filtered themselves out before the trial started. "For the circumcision and control groups, respectively, rates of any reported sexual dysfunction decreased from 23.6% and 25.9% at baseline to 6.2% and 5.8% at month 24." In other words, just going in the study had vastly more effect than circumcision (the Hawthorne Effect). And "more sensitive" is suddenly a good thing? How often do we hear circumcised men say "If I was any more sensitive, I'd be finished before I started" and the like. The conflict between Francis' informant and the Kreiger trial can be resolved if circumcision has widely varying results - another good reason not to do it without pressing medical need. The circumcised men in the trial also reported "greater ease of reaching orgasm" which could also be called PE.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

4:29pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"The men in the Krieger study were all adult Kenyan volunteers for circumcision who hoped it would protect them against HIV. Men who appreciated their foreskins had filtered themselves out before the trial started." -- that doesn't make sense. Whether circumcision protects against HIV is a separate issue from whether the foreskin contributes to sexual satisfaction.

"In other words, just going in the study had vastly more effect than circumcision (the Hawthorne Effect)." -- given that we're discussing the effect of circumcision, not that of participating in studies, could you explain why you think that is relevant?

"And "more sensitive" is suddenly a good thing?" -- I'm not saying it's good or bad, just that it contradicts Frances' claim. I think we need some consistency from you people on the subject of whether sensitivity is good or bad, though, as you seem to change your mind rather a lot.

David J. Llewellyn

Flag as inappropriate

10:14am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

While it seems that the medical profession does not want to really study the risks and tries to minimize them at every turn, the fact is that circumcision is risky. As a trial lawyer I am working on my sixth case of serious glanular injury (cutting of the round tip). And two of these cases occurred in Georgia! Probably as many as 33% of circumcised men have had too much shaft skin removed. Pubic hair on your shaft when erect? Tearing at the scar line when erect? Then you are the unfortunate and unwitting victim of a botched job. Nothwithstanding the manufactured statistics that purportedly offer a justification for it, the simple fact is that circumcision removes a non-diseased, normal body part. There is no ethical justification for doing this to an infant. Certainly it is not justified to reduce the chance of getting STDs, including STD induced penile or cervical cancer, when sexually active, as babies don't have sex and a young man may wish to keep his whole body and adopt more reasonable tactics to avoid STDs, including HIV and HPV. And certainly it is not justified to avoid teasing, particularly since at least 40% of baby boys are now being left intact here in the U.S.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

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10:31am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Babies don't stay babies for very long. Circumcision at birth is the best time to do it and it provides life long health benefits. You make a good argument for finding a competent doctor to perform circumcision.

Manufactured statistics? What are you talking about?

There are numerous peer-reviewed studies in reputable journals about the health benefits of circumcision.

Craig Ginsberg

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11:19am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

At birth, circumcision is more damaging for several reasons

- 1) The foreskin is fused to the glans. (1) Forceful separation, a process that is required for circumcision, leaves the surface of the glans with pitting, adhesions, and cracks. Pitting is when chunks of the glans are torn off with the foreskin; adhesions are when chunks of the foreskin permanently fuse to the glans. Sometimes doctors refer to this bloody process with the euphemism "breaking the adhesions".
- 2) The procedure is less accurate. The infant's penis is small and it all hinges on how far forward the foreskin is pulled, and how much is removed. Because the penis is small it is much easier to make surgical mistakes due to the inaccuracy of human hands. At infancy the glans are retracted very far inside the foreskin so it is common for an infant to lose anywhere from 35% to 80% of all the skin of his penis. (2)
- 3) It is much cheaper to circumcise an infant than an adult who you must actually provide general anesthesia for. This is a monetary benefit but it is not a benefit for your son. Infants can not be given general anesthesia because of the serious risks involved in possibly overdosing a tiny baby. Less than effective local anesthesia is still used less than 35% or take 15% of the time depending on where you live in the U.S. In the recent past, anesthesia was used rarely if ever. (3)

Craig Ginsberg

Flag as inappropriate

11:19am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

(1) Diebert GA. The separation of the prepuce in the human penis. *Anatomical Record* 1993 Nov;57(4):387-99.

Hunter RH. Notes on the development of the prepuce. *Journal of Anatomy* 1935 Oct;70(1):6875.

Gairdner D. The fate of the foreskin. *BMJ* 1949 DEC 24;2(4642):1433-7

Glenister TW. A consideration of their process involved in the development of the prepuce in man. *Br J Urol* 1956 Sep;28(3):243-9

(2) M. M. Lander, "The Human Prepuce," in G. C. Denniston and M. F. Milos, eds., *Sexual Mutilations: A Human Tragedy* (New York: Plenum Press, 1997), 79-81. 2. M. Davenport, "Problems with the Penis and Prepuce: Natural History of the Foreskin," *British Medical Journal* 312 (1996): 299-301.]

(3) Stang, M.J., & Snellman, L.W. (1998). Circumcision practice patterns in the United States. *Pediatrics*, 101(6), <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org...> doi: 10.1542/peds.101.6.e5

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:14am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Craig, take a look at this:

http://circinfo.net/circumcision_sensitivity_sensation_sexual_function.html

There are plenty of references in their about sensitivity and sexual satisfaction.

Log in to reply

Craig Ginsberg

Flag as inappropriate

10:49am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

yes yes self reporting. i discuss the errors of self reporting in the past: read this:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive_dissonance

i know brains cite well: here is some info about him: [http://circleaks.org/index.php?](http://circleaks.org/index.php?title=Brian_J._Morris)

[title=Brian_J._Morris](http://circleaks.org/index.php?title=Brian_J._Morris)

Craig Ginsberg

Flag as inappropriate

10:49am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

i wont give that cite another visit please present the sensitivity study's and i will show you how and why they are limited.

Craig Ginsberg

Flag as inappropriate

10:55am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Most notably non biased Chinese researchers showed that circumcision drastically reduces the glans sensitivity to vibration.(63) using a superior experimental methodology.

(63)Yang, DM; Lin H, Zhang B, Guo W (April 2008). "Circumcision affects glans penis vibration

perception threshold". Zhonghua Nan Ke Xue 14 (4): 328–330

Craig Ginsberg

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10:55am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

What is the foreskin? is a question that many Americans would have trouble answering. Information about the foreskin is virtually absent during discussions of anatomy in biology classrooms, and yet, the foreskin provides a well-documented set of crucial sensory, protective, immunological, hygienic, and sexual functions. The foreskin is a double fold of skin that is twice as big as its appearance. It can make up to 80% or more of the penile skin covering, and includes around 12-20 square inches of skin (the size of a 3x4 or a 4x5 index card!)(51,52), and in turn includes a specialized sheet of dartos muscle(53)

Craig Ginsberg

Flag as inappropriate

10:56am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

One of the functions of this mobile skin system is to glide up and down the shaft of the penis in order to facilitate non-abrasive stimulation during sexual activity without any need for artificial factory made lubricant. This frictionless gliding mechanism is the principal source of stimulation for the intact penis and facilitates non-abrasive intercourse.(54)

Craig Ginsberg

Flag as inappropriate

10:56am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

The neuro-anatomy of the penis has been rigorously studied by respected anatomists of all kinds. The component tissues that comprise the foreskin are richly innervated with the greatest quantity and variety of sensory nerve endings than any other part of the penis; the foreskin can discern the slightest pressure, the lightest touch, the smallest motion, the subtlest changes in temperature, and the finest gradations in texture.(52,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62) Many people are surprised to discover that the glans or "head" of the penis is actually the least sensitive part and

is insensitive to light touch, heat, cold and even pin-pricks.(52,61,62) Permanent unnatural exposure of the penis further desensitizes the glans, the foreskin keeps the glands healthy, clean, shiny, warm, soft, moist, and sensitive; with out the foreskin the glans are scared, dry, cracked, and pitted. Most notably, circumcision drastically reduces the glans sensitivity to vibration.(63)

To no surprise, this information was corroborated in a 2006 study which measured the sensitivity of all the parts of the penis. Researchers used an extremely sensitive pressure sensing probe while each test subject, whose view was blocked with a screen, reported a sensation of touch. To demonstrate precision they took each measurement multiple times. The results were statistically consistent. They concluded:

Craig Ginsberg

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10:56am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"Five locations on the uncircumcised penis that are routinely removed at circumcision were more sensitive than the most sensitive location on the circumcised penis[...] The glans in the circumcised male is less sensitive to fine-touch pressure than the glans of the uncircumcised male[...]The most sensitive location on the circumcised penis is the circumcision scar on the ventral surface [...] When compared to the most sensitive area of the circumcised penis, several locations on the uncircumcised penis that are missing from the circumcised penis were significantly more sensitive."(62)

(51) See photographic series in: lander MM. The Human prepuce. In: Denniston GC, Milos MF (eds). Sexual Mutilations: a human Tragedy. New York: Plenum Press; 1997. pp.79-81

(52) Taylor JR, Lockwood AP, Taylor AJ. The prepuce: specialized musocsa of the penis and its loss to circumcision. Br J Urol 1996 Feb;77(2): 291-5

Craig Ginsberg

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11:18am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

(53)Jefferson G. The peripenic muscle; some observations on the anatomy of phimosis. Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics 1916 Aug;23(2):177-81.

- (54)K. O'Hara and J. O'Hara. The effect of male circumcision on the sexual enjoyment of the female partner. BJU International, Volume 83, Supplement 1, Pages 79-84, January 1, 1999.
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- (57)Bazett HC, McGlone B, Williams RG, Lufkin HM. Depth, distribution and probable identification in the prepuce of sensory end-organs concerned in sensations of temperature and touch; thermometric conductivity. Archives of Neurology and psychiatry 1932 Mar; 27(3):489-517

Craig Ginsberg

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11:18am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

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- (63)Yang, DM; Lin H, Zhang B, Guo W (April 2008). "Circumcision affects glans penis vibration perception threshold". Zhonghua Nan Ke Xue 14 (4): 328-330

Tina Tuszynski

Flag as inappropriate

10:56am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Perhaps that's now, but my son is 23 and it wasn't that prevalent then. I'd still check that out if I was

a new mom - when you are in high school you don't always have the option to not change in front of others. Kids who are perceived as different by others, whether it's uncircumcised, gay, or overweight, can be targets for vicious teasing and behavior by other kids. It's sad and unfortunate, but it's reality - and bullying and teasing have gotten so much worse as our general level of civility has gone down the tubes.

[Log in to reply](#)

Craig Ginsberg

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11:21am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

its currently down to 33.5% so those with surgically diminished sexual organs will be the minority and those laughed at. Kids WILL ALWAYS BE MADE OF SOMETHING. If not his foreskin he will not have the right clothes, the right hair, or amount of money, or toys, or the "correct" combination or traits needed to be accepted by every one 100%.

Craig Ginsberg

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

11:31am on Thursday, May 12, 2011

America was supposedly founded on individuality. where did these unamerican conformist views come from? I know none of my friends value conformity in any way.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:38pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Craig, what a nasty web site circleaks. It's pretty clear they are anti-circ.

Must the anti-circer's resort to personal attacks? If you guys had the research on your side you wouldn't need to do that.

How about focusing on what he's published and attack that if there are mistakes.

I don't think there's anything anyone could show you that would convince you of the health benefits of circumcision.

[Log in to reply](#)

dolores

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:42pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Nobody: you use the term "nasty"? Nasty is the mutilating of baby penises and the advocacy thereof, sir.

I have been married to a cut man and to an intact man. The difference in sexual relations is like night and day. Our bodies work better when they are whole. Sex is much better when both partners are intact.

Nobody, you say: "Must anti-circers resort to personal attacks?" Umm..the ATTACKERS are the ones with the knives, cutting up helpless babies. Being strapped down and having your genitals ripped and torn is definitely personal and most certainly an attack. You are the person advocating this extremely personal attack on helpless little children. Genital cutting of minors is not recommended by any medical organization on Earth. Not one. It is a violation of medical ethics and human rights. Whether or not it has some "benefit" is irrelevant.

Also, nobody, you use the term "foreskin lovers" That is interesting. Men who have foreskins definitely love them. So do their partners. The foreskin is healthy erogenous tissue. It is the best part of the penis! I am concerned when anyone advocates hurting helpless children, even more so when they pretend it is for "science".

Circumcision persists in our culture because of medical greed, parental ignorance and religious absurdity. Educated, caring, insightful people do not cut up helpless children. Loving parents and ethical doctors protect the bodily integrity of the vulnerable people in their care. Period.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:09pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Dolores, must you use scare tactics? It's hardly mutilation. If anything circumcision perfects the imperfect.

As for your personal preference, there a plenty of women (and men) who prefer a cut penis and think

sex is much better with no foreskin in the way.

Whether or not circumcision has some benefit is quiet relevant.

I wouldn't be advocating circumcision if I didn't think there were far more benefits which outweigh the risks.

It's hardly hurting a helpless child any more than vaccinating a helpless child.

Parents make important decisions for the children all the time.

If the health benefits are real, then it would in fact be irresponsible and negligent NOT to circumcise,
don't you think?

dolores

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:54pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Nobody: I respectfully request that you answer the question: Whose penis is it? And also address the ethics of non-consenting surgery on a minor that is not performed for diagnosis or treatment of disease. Thank you.

Dolores

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:16pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Dolores, I think I answered your question in my last message.

Circumcision is done because of the health benefits throughout life.

There are far more important things that parents decide for their children -- where they send them to school,
what religious indoctrination they give them...

Let me ask you some questions. Suppose the health benefits of circumcision are even better than what research has found.

Would you still be against? Could there ever be enough health benefits that you would decide

circumcision is
the way to go? If not, it doesn't sound like you have the child's best interests in mind.

Tina Tuszynski

Flag as inappropriate

3:06pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Interestingly enough, this article created a discussion among several of us, and several individuals who are older (75 and upward) indicated that they wish they had been circumcised as babies. As they've gotten older, the extra foreskin has drooped and caused a lot of problems for them during urination and hygiene. They also mentioned several other problems they've had with infections, etc. Before people jump all over them, these are very clean and hygenic people mentioning this. Anyway, it's a different perspective to consider .

[Log in to reply](#)

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

3:53pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Tina, what parts do you suggest we cut off our infant daughters to facilitate hygiene and protect them from infections when they become older and their genitals start to droop?

Hugh7

Flag as inappropriate

4:10pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Women's parts also droop as they get older and cause problems. Would you consider for a moment cutting baby girls to prevent this?

dolores

Flag as inappropriate

3:18pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Tina, these adults you are mentioning are free to get circumcised if that is their wish. I have a hard

time believing that their foreskins were not valuable to them in their lives. For you to know several men all at once who wish they had been cut as babies defies the statistics. Also defiant of the data is "problems with infections". What type of problems? Most infections are easily treated with oral or topical antibiotics, not amputation. These general statements you are making about anonymous men do not justify the cutting of babies. I find it peculiar that a man would wish he had been mutilated against his will as an infant.

Every body part changes as we age. Our skin becomes less elastic. Good hydration and external creams help with keeping the foreskin pliable. Also, older men tend to shower rather than bathe. Soaking helps improve foreskin elasticity in the elderly.

Also, I presume these men-who-wish-they-were-cut live here in the U.S. No non-genital cutting culture even thinks about slicing off parts of the penis as a "health measure". That is purely an American phenomenon.

I doubt if these "75 and upward individuals" who "wish they had been cut as newborns" actually exist

So I won't jump all over them. They can get cut if they want, but they have no right to say some one else should get cut. that's all.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:25pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Dolores, I am one of those cut in my 20's because I found foreskin impossible to keep clean. I too wish it had been done at birth. I've talked with other guys who's have it done as an adult and they feel the same way. If you are really interested in hearing stories from similar guys you'd have to go to pro-circ group. There you will get plenty of testimony from happily circumcised guys.

Must you say mutilated? It's not mutilation. A circumcised penis is fully functional. Go look up the word...

Tima is right about older men having problems. And just who is going to clean it for them when they are unable to?

Circumcision has lifelong health benefits!

[Log in to reply](#)

Hugh7

Flag as inappropriate

4:26pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"I found foreskin impossible to keep clean." This is hard to understand in terms of the amount of cleaning actually required - but much easier to understand in terms of some kind of obsessive-compulsive cleanliness fixation.

But whatever, if any adult wants to get any part (or all) of his genitals cut off for any reason or none, nobody is stopping him, and of course such people get together and agree with each other. We've heard how circumcised men define "fully functional" - "I can still get an erection and reach orgasm" What a sad excuse for the ecstatic journey. Women often complain that men are too "goal-oriented" about sex and won't slow down and "smell the flowers". Circumcision could have a lot to do with it.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:33pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Hugh7, no obsessive-compulsive disorder here. Just happy that there's a simply solution to good hygiene.

Not sure what you're talking about "fully functional".

I'm fully functional after being circumcised and I think sex is better.

I've had it both ways. Have you?

dolores

Flag as inappropriate

3:39pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

And the person who owns the penis should make the decision when they are at an age of consent.

Again, nobody, whose penis is it?

My genitals do not belong to my parents. You made a decision when you were an adult to cut your penis.

I say mutilate because altering form alters function.

Just because you like your penis cut, does not give you the right to say other minors should have their penises cut.

This is permanently altering amputative surgery of healthy tissue from a non-consenting human being. I say mutilation and I could and maybe should be saying vivisection.

I don't know why you could not keep your penis clean. All of the intact men I have ever known, in my family and in my circle of friends and acquaintances, have no problems keeping clean. I have been a nurse for twenty years and some of my patients who are frail elderly need some assistance, but they certainly don't need surgery.

What you chose for yourself, you haven't the right to inflict on vulnerable others.

Adults in positions of power need to not abuse that power.

Whose penis is it, nobody?

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:49pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Now you throw in the word amputate...

Who's brain is it Dolores? Like I said before, parents make decisions for their kids that will affect them for life.

So do you really believe that no matter how much the health benefits of circumcision are it is wrong to circumcise?

I doubt you would go that far.

An uncircumcised penis is never as clean as a circumcised one. Think about it. When do you think

it gets dirty under that foreskin. It's a continuous process. Once you're done cleaning the process continues.

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:00pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"Amputation" is the word the American Academy of Pediatrics uses to describe male circumcision in its 1999 policy statement.

"The elements that are common to the use of each of these devices to accomplish circumcision include the following: estimation of the amount of external skin to be removed; dilation of the preputial orifice so that the glans can be visualized to ensure that the glans itself is normal; bluntly freeing the inner preputial epithelium from the epithelium of the glans; placing the device (at times a dorsal slit is necessary to do so); leaving the device in situ long enough to produce hemostasis; and amputation of the foreskin."

So yeah, amputation is accurate!

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

3:42pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"Infant male circumcision was once considered a preventive health measure and was therefore adopted extensively in Western countries. Current understanding of the benefits, risks and potential harm of this procedure, however, no longer supports this practice for prophylactic health benefit. Routine infant male circumcision performed on a healthy infant is now considered a non-therapeutic and medically unnecessary intervention." ~ The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

<https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/u6/Circumcision-Infant-Male.pdf>

Log in to reply

dolores

Flag as inappropriate

3:43pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

And as a parent, protecting my children is foremost. Allowing a person to take a sharp instrument and cut apart my child's genitals is not a protective act. Especially when that person with the knife is taking money for the procedure.

Advocate for adult circ all you want, people. Just leave the children alone.

Log in to reply

Tina Tuszynski

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:48pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Dolores, I'm just sharing some others' commentary. You'll have to just trust me that they exist, as one is a relative of mine. Whether you agree with them or not, their opinion and experience is as valid as your opinion is. Since I don't have those tools in my toolbox, I can only rely on others' experiences and medical data. My point is that there are many considerations that should be considered when making this decision.

And I'm sure you know that any surgery is much more dangerous when you are older.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:54pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Tina, well put!

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:49pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Hey Andrew, ever heard of condoms?

"Dr. Andrew A. Roth is an assistant professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center. Dr. Roth told us the number one reason why he recommends circumcision is the statistical reduction in sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV."

It is extremely condescending and offensive for you to suggest that it is ethical to cut off a normal, healthy part of my penis because you think I am too lazy or too stupid or too irresponsible to practice safe sex and use a condom!

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:56pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Reduced risk of HIV is only one of the many health benefits of circumcision.
If the condom breaks, wouldn't you like to have that extra protection?

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

5:26pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

I would rather have all of the feeling and sensation from a normal, intact penis. I don't sleep around, especially with someone is HIV positive.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:46pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

My penis is "intact", i.e. fully functional. I dojn't like it when people like you say otherwise.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

12:03am on Friday, May 13, 2011

If you are circumcised, a normal part of your penis was cut off. Your penis was surgically altered.
Part of it is missing.
But that is what you wanted, so I don't know why you are complaining.

dolores

Flag as inappropriate

4:06pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

When the man is an adult, he can decide if surgery to remove skin on his penis is how he would like to handle himself and his relationships. That is not any one else's decision to make.
Circumcised men can and do transmit and contract HIV.

Your idols are clay, nobody.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:10pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

dolores, circumcised men are much less likely to contract HIV from heterosexual sex which means there will be fewer people infected to infect other people.

The benefits of circumcision far outweigh the risks...

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:24pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Only a handful of pro-circumcision extremists believe the medical benefits of male genital cutting outweigh the risks and harms.

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:29pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"Only a handful of pro-circumcision extremists believe the medical benefits of male genital cutting outweigh the risks and harms." -- like these people? "Medical benefits outweigh risks for infant MC [male circumcision], and there are many practical advantages of doing it in the newborn period." -- CDC Consultation on Public Health Issues Regarding Male Circumcision in the United States for the Prevention of HIV Infection and Other Health Consequences, April 2007
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2788411/table/F1/>

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:51pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"Infant male circumcision was once considered a preventive health measure and was therefore adopted extensively in Western countries. Current understanding of the benefits, risks and potential harm of this procedure, however, no longer supports this practice for prophylactic health benefit. Routine infant male circumcision performed on a healthy infant is now considered a non-therapeutic and medically unnecessary intervention." ~ The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

<https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/u6/Circumcision-Infant-Male.pdf>

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

5:54pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Would you be good enough to answer my question, Stan?

Tina Tuszynski

Flag as inappropriate

4:08pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Stan, I'm not suggesting anything. I actually do not have a current opinion on this issue, as my son is in his twenties. I simply shared my reasons for having him circumcised back in the late 80's when he was born. I have not investigated this issue enough to make an informed decision. I simply am sharing various perspectives of others that have talked about it. Fortunately, neither my husband nor my son have had any issues with being circumcised. If I was faced with this decision today, I'd have to investigate it through medical studies as well as different people's experiences with it.

[Log in to reply](#)

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

5:22pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

There is a great saying by Maya Angelou. "When you know better, you do better."

We now know there is NO compelling medical reason for cutting off a normal part of a healthy

boy's penis.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:40pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

There are health benefits to cutting off a piece of unnecessary skin. Those of us who've looked at the research "know better". Those who have their pre-conceived views about foreskin don't.

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

11:50pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

If an advocate of female genital cutting referred to a girl's labia as "a piece of unnecessary skin", most people would think they were a little strange. Advocates of male genital cutting devalue normal, intact male genitals in the same way advocates of female genital cutting devalue normal, intact female genitals.

dolores

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:10pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

I would also like to address cut status. If a man's penis has had parts removed, it is less of a penis. It has not been improved, it has been diminished. I feel bad that you felt like you had to have an operation to keep clean. My heart goes out to you for that. my heart stops going out to you when you advocate cutting up helpless children. to the baby strapped down and screaming, it is mutilation. It is vivisection and it is abuse. It is assault. It is shameful and ugly. It is not a blessing. It is not holy or kind or life-affirming.
Leave the children alone.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

4:22pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

No need for your heart to go out to me. If foreskin grew back, I'd have it removed time and time again.

Sex is so much better WITHOUT it.

Like I keep saying there are plenty of health benefits to being circumcised and parents should consider offering them to their sons.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

5:19pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

There are medical benefits for cutting off a child's toes. If you cut off your child's toes, they will never get athlete's foot or ingrown toenails.

There are also medical benefits for cutting off your daughter's labia. If you cut off your daughter's labia, she will never get cancer of the labia or an infection of the labia. In addition it will be much easier for her to keep herself clean.

Cutting off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis is as crazy as cutting off a healthy child's toes or a healthy girl's labia.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

5:25pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"Cutting off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis is as crazy as cutting off a healthy child's toes or a healthy girl's labia." -- the obvious difference, of course, lies in the balance between risks and benefits. In the case of female genital cutting or toe amputation there is obviously more harm than benefit. In the case of circumcision, that's not the case.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

5:41pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

That is because advocates of male genital cutting devalue a normal, intact penis. When a person places no value in a normal part of the human body, it is easier to justify cutting it off.

People from cultures where female genital cutting is common devalue normal, intact female genitals in the same way that advocates of male genital cutting devalue normal, intact male genitals.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

5:44pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

Joe, circumcision is a vaccination for life. The evidence for the health benefits are overwhelming. Would anything change your mind?

Look at what the circumcision "vaccine" prevents.

These can't happen when circumcised:

- Phimosis (There's no foreskin to be too tight)
- Para-Phimosis (There's no tight foreskin that stays retracted)

There are more foreskin problems that simply can't happen when a guy is cut.

If you need more I'll find the info for you.

These problems are less frequent in circumcised men:

- recurring balanitis (I had that as a kid!)
- you're probably already heard about all the other problems that are less frequent in circumcised guys.

If not, I'll find the list for you.

Take a look at this video. The research for circumcision is overwhelming which is why it's being widely implemented:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KosKDlhdM>

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:20pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, circumcision is a vaccination for life."

Don't try and confuse circumcision with vaccination, the two are not in the same ball park as they say. Again I ask you how many diseases are extinct (or near extinct for that matter) because of vaccination; that will give you a clue.

nobody said: " The evidence for the health benefits are overwhelming. Would anything change your mind?"

I disagree. The RACP disagrees, the Dutch disagree and more, especially where it applies to their specific situations. For circumcision by proxy? You would need to present a therapeutic justification. The medical benefit must exceed the risk and harms, what you suggest (circumcision) would have to be the only reasonable way to obtain these benefits, and that benefit must be necessary to the well-being of the child. Circumcision doesn't currently meet this mark.

nobody said: "- Phimosis (There's no foreskin to be too tight) - Para-Phimosis (There's no tight foreskin that stays retracted) - recurring balanitis (I had that as a kid!)"

First, most infants or children don't have these conditions, second those who do can be treated with less invasive means. This would be like saying people can get cavities so let's pull out everyone's teeth. For some pulling a tooth might be necessary but not for most.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:18am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"You would need to present a therapeutic justification. The medical benefit must exceed the risk and harms, what you suggest (circumcision) would have to be the only reasonable way to obtain these benefits, and that benefit must be necessary to the well-being of the child. " -- I think you're setting an unreasonable standard here. Vaccinations aren't necessary, for example; we perform them because they're beneficial.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

9:24am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Jake said: " I think you're setting an unreasonable standard here. Vaccinations aren't necessary, for example; we perform them because they're beneficial."

I disagree that the standard is unreasonable. The standard should be very high particularly in cases of proxy consent. However, even substituting 'necessary' for say 'important' or 'beneficial' doesn't get circumcision by proxy into the group. Without therapeutic need, it would still be precluded as a rational intervention for most males.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

9:47am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"I disagree that the standard is unreasonable." -- let's agree to disagree, then.

"However, even substituting 'necessary' for say 'important' or 'beneficial' doesn't get circumcision by proxy into the group. Without therapeutic need, it would still be precluded as a rational intervention for most males." -- either you've contradicted yourself or I've misunderstood. If we change "necessary" to "beneficial" then there is no longer a requirement for therapeutic need, per se.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

1:33pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

There needs to be a compelling medical reason for the surgery before it is ethical for a doctor to cut off a normal, healthy part of my body without my consent.

There is NO compelling medical reason for a doctor to cut off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:00pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Jake said: "either you've contradicted yourself or I've misunderstood. If we change "necessary" to "beneficial" then there is no longer a requirement for therapeutic need, per se." I wouldn't necessarily make the change, I've only speculated for your benefit that such a change would not shift circumcision into the same category as vaccination as you seem to be trying to imply. Circumcision by proxy consent is only reasonable for therapeutic reasons which could be either necessary or beneficial or both.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

4:05pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"Circumcision by proxy consent is only reasonable for therapeutic reasons which could be either necessary or beneficial or both" -- I strongly disagree. Given that there is no net harm, I think circumcision is reasonable for most reasons, as long as the parent has the child's best interests in mind.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:43pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Jake opined: "Given that there is no net harm, [..]"

I disagree. The mere fact that circumcision leaves a scar means that there was harm done. The net effect of that harm (good or bad) can only be determined by the individual on whom it was inflicted. You may be content with it, feeling that it was more good than bad, others don't agree. That is why when there is no therapeutic need, it is not reasonable to perform a circumcision by proxy consent.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

4:48pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

The idea that there is no net harm from cutting off a normal part of a healthy male's penis is not given. That is the point of view of pro-circumcision advocates. Advocates of male circumcision consistently devalue a normal, intact penis.

The only person who can legitimately say that cutting off a normal, healthy part of a male's penis causes no net harm is the man himself.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

4:51pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"I disagree. The mere fact that circumcision leaves a scar means that there was harm done." --
A scar isn't inherently evidence of harm. It's just a scar.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:37pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Jake said: "The mere fact that circumcision leaves a scar means that there was harm done." --
A scar isn't inherently evidence of harm. It's just a scar."

A scar is the result of an injury, an injury is harm, the scar is the evidence of that harm. What else could it be?

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

5:41pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

It is not surprising that you ignored the main point that Joe and I made, i.e. only person who can legitimately determine if cutting off a normal part of a man's penis causes harm is the man himself.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

5:46pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"A scar is the result of an injury, an injury is harm" -- you're begging the question. A scar is the result of a circumcision. Whether that circumcision causes harm is the same question (phrased differently) as whether circumcision injures.

"It is not surprising that you ignored the main point that Joe and I made, i.e. only person who can legitimately determine if cutting off a normal part of a man's penis causes harm is the man himself." -- to be frank, Stan, you repeat that so often that I tend to ignore it almost instinctively, tuning it out like background noise.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:00pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Jake said: "A scar is the result of a circumcision." And a scar is an area of fibrous tissue which replaces normal tissue after injury. An injury is the result of harm. I am afraid I don't see what the difficulty is you have here is.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

6:06pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

The "difficulty", Joe, is that you're begging the question. A scar is the result of a change, certainly, an incision, but is that change harmful or beneficial? It can be either.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

6:18pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

The only person who can say whether or not the change is harmful or beneficial is the owner of the penis. You and other advocates of male genital cutting dismiss the feelings of the owner of

the penis.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:30pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

jake said: "The "difficulty", Joe, is that you're begging the question. A scar is the result of a change, certainly, an incision, but is that change harmful or beneficial? It can be either."

I am afraid that I don't see how I am 'begging the question'. This is a short journey so it's not clear to me how you're getting lost.

Scar: "A mark left on the skin after a surface injury or wound has healed."

<http://tinyurl.com/3guouvww>

Injury: "Damage or harm done to or suffered by a person or thing."

<http://tinyurl.com/5ut98c9>

Wound: "An injury, especially one in which the skin or another external surface is torn, pierced, cut, or otherwise broken."

<http://tinyurl.com/6xc6zm6>

Circumcision, or any surgery for that matter, does cause harm, as evidenced by, at the minimum, the scar. It is the therapeutic aim of a surgery (or the individual's subjective opinion of the result) which justifies it.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:39am on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Joe, surely you're aware that the English language is so rich, and terms carry so many subtly (and not-so-subtly) different meanings that one can easily establish equivalence between two unrelated terms by following such a chain? As I said, a scar is evidence of a change to the body, an incision, but whether that change is good or bad is precisely the question we're addressing. If you start from the assumption that all changes are inherently harmful then it should be unsurprising that you reach that conclusion!

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

10:48am on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Jake said: "Joe, surely [...] addressing."

The difficulty here Jake is that the definition of scar is not as broad as you try to imply. Try as I might, I haven't found an example where one defines scar as simply 'evidence of change'. Even when you manage to dig up some obscure example, it is clear that the majority have settled on a definition along the lines that I've provided.

- * a permanent mark on your skin where you have been injured
- * a mark left (usually on the skin) by the healing of injured tissue
- * an indication of damage

Therefore a scar is evidence of harm, the body has had to heal itself; created an area of fibrous tissue to repair damage. By definition we are forced to start there, whether you like it or not. Whether that is good or bad depends, in the case of a surgical procedure, whether there was therapeutic intent. In the case of non-therapeutic intent, only the individual can decide whether the injury was worth the outcome.

Jake said: "If you start from the assumption that all changes are inherently harmful then it should be unsurprising that you reach that conclusion!"

I can't start from that assumption because 'change' is simply too vague to make any rational conclusion. I can, as defined, assume that a scar represents inherent harm though.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

10:53am on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"The difficulty here Jake is that the definition of scar is not as broad as you try to imply. Try as I might, I haven't found an example where one defines scar as simply 'evidence of change'." -- are you seriously challenging it? In what way can a scar occur when it isn't evidence of a change to the body?

"Therefore a scar is evidence of harm" -- no, it's evidence of a change to the body, in this particular case it is the site where skin was excised.

"Whether that is good or bad depends, in the case of a surgical procedure, whether there was therapeutic intent." -- don't be so absurd! Whether it is good or bad depends on the consequences, not the intent. One can perform a good action with bad intentions and vice versa.

"I can, as defined, assume that a scar represents inherent harm though." -- you can, though pretending that is a rational position is a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

2:21pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Jake said: " are you seriously challenging it?" Find me a definition that defines 'scar' solely as "evidence of change." I am not going to change the definition of a word simply because you don't approve of the largely agreed upon meaning, because it doesn't suit your needs. I will use the common definition of words which in this case defines a scar to be the result of damage. Whether or not that harm is justified is a separate question that depends on the individual circumstances.

Jake said: "Whether that is good or bad depends, in the case of a surgical procedure, whether there was therapeutic intent." -- don't be so absurd! Whether it is good or bad depends on the consequences, not the intent."

The ends don't necessarily justify the means Jake. The only thing I left out there is also the possibility of the individual choosing it for themselves. If there is no therapeutic intent or individual preference I am afraid I don't see what's left to justify the harm that was done.

Jake said: "you can, though pretending that is a rational position is a form of intellectual dishonesty."

I don't see how using the widely accepted dictionary definition as a starting point is 'intellectual dishonesty'. This is a strange accusation coming from someone like yourself though. A skilled propagandist who is bipolar between whether he is being intentionally vague and obtuse or pedantic, the choice made based on which best promotes your position.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:25pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"I will use the common definition of words which in this case defines a scar to be the result of damage" -- well, if you're going to insist upon definitions that mean that it is impossible for circumcision not to harm, it's a waste of time trying to hold a discussion with you about whether it actually does.

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:24pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Jake said: ""I [...] does."

Jake, I am going to insist upon not redefining a word to suit your needs; to my knowledge there is no one who defines 'scar' as you are trying to use it. The bottom line is that the existence of the scar indicates harm was done. The individual who was harmed may find that harm acceptable if it was done for therapeutic or simply personal needs. In that case, for that individual, he could say he felt that whatever subjective benefit he received makes up for the objective harm done.

Jake said: ", it's a waste of time trying to hold a discussion with you about whether it actually does."

It's impossible not because I am insisting on the correct definitions. It's impossible because (in the absence of therapeutic need) the amount of harm or benefit can only be determined by the individual. Your personal assessment for yourself found it to be an acceptable trade off for reasons that I can't begin to fathom. Was it therapeutic? Do you have poor hygiene? Do you consistently make bad decisions? Is it some sort of weird fetish? I can only speculate but ultimately it doesn't matter because the only one who can determine if the objective harm was worth some subjective benefit was you.

I don't find the reasons "benefits" even remotely compelling. Particularly when there are more effective ways to realize them. And that should be my choice, not anyone else.

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:36pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"It's impossible not because I am insisting on the correct definitions." -- It's impossible because you have insisted, through rather circular reasoning, that anything that can cause a scar is, ipso facto, harmful. Because of that position, nothing can convince you that circumcision is beneficial. Nothing! Even if a foreskin were attached to a heavy rock, pulling a person to his doom into the mouth of an active volcano, cutting his foreskin would, according to you, constitute harm.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:52pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Jake said: " It's impossible because you have insisted, through rather circular reasoning, that anything that can cause a scar is, ipso facto, harmful"

I don't see how depending on several dictionary definitions is 'circular reasoning'. It's forcing you, for once, to be honest.

Jake said: "Because of that position, nothing can convince you that circumcision is beneficial. " I am afraid I don't understand where you get that idea from. If there is a therapeutic need, then I would agree that that particular circumcision was beneficial. If someone choose to get circumcised then for that individual, they decided that the subjective benefit outweighed the objective harm; I really can't disagree with their opinion.

Jake said: "Even if a foreskin were attached to a heavy rock, pulling a person to his doom into the mouth of an active volcano, cutting his foreskin would, according to you, constitute harm."

Well, sure but it would seem that there might be a therapeutic reason in that case. Though in keeping with medicine's, "least invasive, most effective intervention expected to work" standard, I would probably try and excise the rock first. How did it get there anyway?

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

5:55pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"I don't see how depending on several dictionary definitions is 'circular reasoning'" - then you're prepared to acknowledge that something can cause a scar and yet not be harmful?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:07pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

jake said: "I don't see how depending on several dictionary definitions is 'circular reasoning'" - then you're prepared to acknowledge that something can cause a scar and yet not be harmful?

I think we've been through this. It starts with: was there a therapeutic need, did the individual consent?

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

6:15pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"was there a therapeutic need, did the individual consent" -- neither of these questions are strictly relevant to whether it is beneficial.

dolores

Flag as inappropriate

4:30pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

So sex is better for YOU without your foreskin. And you said you couldn't keep your penis clean with a foreskin. Congratulations. Now stay away from the children.

Most men have their foreskins, keep them clean and enjoy the sexual benefits of having their whole penis. It is not appropriate to offer a child elective surgery to satisfy the beliefs of the parents.

Parents do their duty when they support their sons to care for and enjoy their bodies.

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

4:33pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"Most men have their foreskins, keep them clean and enjoy the sexual benefits of having their

whole penis." -- would you be kind enough to cite source(s) for these claims?

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

4:40pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Dolores, parents do their duty when they do what's best for their children.
Based on the scientific evidence, circumcision a a good thing.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

5:13pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Jake, cleaning an intact penis is not rocket science! It is much harder for a woman with intact genitals to keep herself clean than it is for a man with intact genitals to keep himself clean. It takes 3 seconds in the shower. Retract - rinse - replace. It is easy!

Hygiene is one of the silliest reasons pro-circumcision activists use for cutting the genitals of healthy boys.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

5:23pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Dolores didn't say anything about difficulty levels, Stan. She claimed that "most" men (which conventionally means more than 50%) a) keep them clean and b) enjoy the (unspecified) sexual benefits of them. I think it's reasonable to ask for evidence in support of these claims.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

5:47pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

It is common sense, Jake. But that is a quality that's lacking in supporters of male genital cutting. There is NO compelling medical reason to cut off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

5:53pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Since you're clearly gifted with such extraordinarily precise common sense, Stan, perhaps you'd be good enough to tell us what percentages of uncircumcised men a) keep their foreskins clean and b) enjoy the (unspecified) sexual benefits of them?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:31pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Jake said: "In the case of female genital cutting or toe amputation there is obviously more harm than benefit. In the case of circumcision, that's not the case."

That is only your opinion, there are plenty of others who do not believe there is more benefit than harm.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

9:23pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Stan, I disagree with you. Hygiene is a good reason for circumcision. As I've already said, an uncircumcised

penis is never as clean as a circumcised one. Now you may think an uncircumcised penis is clean enough but

I disagree. I'll say it again: an uncircumcised penis is only clean when it's being cleaned. After that the process that makes it unclean continues on.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:43pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Joe, believe what you want -- you're entitled to your OPINION.

The research has been done and the health benefits of circumcision outweigh the risks. That's a fact.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

10:53pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, believe what you want -- you're entitled to your OPINION. The research has been done and the health benefits of circumcision outweigh the risks. That's a fact."

The notion that the "benefits" outweigh the risks is only your OPINION, see I can use ALL CAPS TOO! But that isn't the opinion shared by most first world countries. Again the Royal Australasian College of Physicians note, that: "the frequency of diseases modifiable by circumcision, the level of protection offered by circumcision and the complication rates of circumcision do not warrant routine infant circumcision."

<http://tinyurl.com/3cw7jju>

or the Royal Dutch Medical Association: "There is no convincing evidence that circumcision is useful or necessary in terms of prevention or hygiene. Partly in the light of the complications which can arise during or after circumcision, circumcision is not justifiable except on medical/therapeutic grounds. Insofar as there are medical benefits, such as a possibly reduced risk of HIV infection, it is reasonable to put off circumcision until the age at which such a risk is relevant and the boy himself can decide about the intervention, or can opt for any available alternatives."

<http://tinyurl.com/3aj7854>

Perhaps that's why you had 'trouble' finding a doctor to do it.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

10:55pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

And you see nobody, the difference between you and I is that I could care less about what you think about yourself and how you feel about having yourself circumcised. You deserved to make that choice as does everyone. Just because YOU were not able to keep yourself clean or be responsible doesn't mean others are also incapable. It's really just a personal problem of yours.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:09am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Joe:

"That is only your opinion, there are plenty of others who do not believe there is more benefit than harm." -- please don't misrepresent what I said. I didn't say that there was more benefit than harm, only that there wasn't more harm than benefit.

'But that isn't the opinion shared by most first world countries. Again the Royal Australasian College of Physicians note, that: "the frequency of diseases modifiable by circumcision, the level of protection offered by circumcision and the complication rates of circumcision do not warrant routine infant circumcision." -- it's unclear why you're quoting a fragment that does not refer to the balance between benefits and risks.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:03am on Friday, May 13, 2011

I am afraid I am not sure what your concern here is Jake. That is part of the 'Executive Summary' and their evaluation of the 'balance' between benefits and risk. And it does present their summation of the purported benefits against the known risks.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

6:36am on Friday, May 13, 2011

The problem is that it doesn't summarise much about the balance between benefits and risks. Are benefits greater, equal, or less than the risks? It doesn't say. The only thing it does imply is that there isn't enough of a net benefit to warrant circumcision of all newborn boys (which is what "routine" infant circumcision means), but if you think about it that would have to be a fairly huge net benefit.

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

11:34am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Jake said: "The problem is that it doesn't summarise much about the balance between benefits and risks."

I afraid that I disagree with your interpretation; they are pretty clear in their assessment. Again, "the frequency of diseases modifiable by circumcision, the level of protection offered by circumcision and the complication rates of circumcision do not warrant routine infant circumcision." Or to answer your question the benefits are less than the risks for the general population, those at standard risk. If you want to read more, you are free to read the summary for each claimed benefit they discuss or read the more detailed explanation for each claimed benefit. There is no need to provide it in the summary or here.

I think only a few nuts would define 'routine' as you seem to, warrant the circumcision of all newborn boys. In the context of this document, I would say it means suggesting or providing circumcision without medical indication for it. Since most boys are not born with a medical indication for circumcision, the benefits don't exceed the risks and it doesn't need to be considered further. Those with a potential indication can be individually assessed.

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:14pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

"Or to answer your question the benefits are less than the risks for the general population, those at standard risk" -- that's not what it says.

"If you want to read more, you are free to read the summary for each claimed benefit they discuss or read the more detailed explanation for each claimed benefit." -- very magnanimous of you; I've read the entire statement previously.

"I think only a few nuts would define 'routine' as you seem to" -- out of interest, do you consider the AAP to be "a few nuts"?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:33pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

Jake opined: " -- that's not what it says."

Well how else could you interpret, "the frequency of diseases modifiable by circumcision, the level of protection offered by circumcision and the complication rates of circumcision do not warrant routine infant circumcision[, circumcision without medical indication]."?

Jake said: ""I think only a few nuts would define 'routine' as you seem to" -- out of interest, do you consider the AAP to be "a few nuts"?"

I am afraid that I can't paint the whole group with such a broad brush, I'd have to know the individual. But if someone, such as yourself, tries to define routine as "warranting application to all new born" then yes; even something considered 'routine' requires individual assessment and consent. In the case of the Australian document though, it clearly should be understood as "without medical indication".

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

4:41pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

Joe as to "without medical indication", the same can be said for vaccinations.

Chances are probably good that your son isn't going to get one of the diseases he's been vaccinated for. So why vaccinate?

Circumcision is a vaccination for life.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

4:43pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

"Well how else could you interpret [...]" -- as I explained, it means that there isn't enough of a net benefit to warrant routine infant circumcision. Even if you believe (as you clearly do) that routine infant circumcision means elective infant circumcision, it still doesn't mean that "the benefits are less than the risks", as you stated. To put it pseudo-algebraically, it means that $b - r < t$, where t is a positive threshold value (and hopefully b and r are obvious).

"But if someone, such as yourself, tries to define routine as "warranting application to all new born"" -- well, that's how the AAP use the term. Why do you think the RACP mean something different when using the same word?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:58pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

nobody said: "Joe as to "without medical indication", the same can be said for vaccinations. Chances are probably good that your son isn't going to get one of the diseases he's been vaccinated for. So why vaccinate?"

It is because of the vaccine that those diseases are rare, not in spite of them. They are of course "without medical indication" but perhaps, to put it into perspective, you could tell me how many diseases are extinct now due to vaccination.

nobody said: "Circumcision is a vaccination for life."

Not even close.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:46pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

Jake said: ""Well how else could you interpret [...]" -- as I explained, it means that there isn't enough of a net benefit to warrant routine infant circumcision. "

Which means the benefits do not exceed the risks for most men; therefore, there is no need to

consider it.

Jake said: "Even if you believe (as you clearly do) that routine infant circumcision means elective infant circumcision, it still doesn't mean that "the benefits are less than the risks", as you stated."

Even routine procedures are still elective procedures.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

5:53pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

"Which means the benefits do not exceed the risks for most men" -- no, it means that the magnitude of the net benefit is not sufficiently large for it to be done to all newborn boys; therefore it is a parental choice.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:54pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

jake said: ""Which means the benefits do not exceed the risks for most men" -- no, it means that the magnitude of the net benefit is not sufficiently large for it to be done to all newborn boys; therefore it is a parental choice."

Implying that the benefit could potentially be so large, for anything, that they might do it against the parents wishes? If that's your definition of routine then you're certainly one of the nuts. That will never happen unless they somehow decide that being intact poses a clear and present danger to the child; it might not surprise me if Americans took that position.

But no, they quite clearly mean that the benefits don't exceed the risks, otherwise they'd suggest it to be routine.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:21am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"Implying that the benefit could potentially be so large, for anything, that they might do it against the parents wishes?" -- I think that would be rather unlikely to occur. There's a difference between recommending that something should be done to all newborn boys and it actually occurring. As it stands, they clearly don't feel that there's enough of a net benefit to warrant such a recommendation.

Richard

Flag as inappropriate

6:58pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

I can't believe that I'm reading so much ridiculous, uninformed bogotry from so many foreskin lovers! I chose to have my fully and freely retractable foreskin removed as an adult, some 25 years ago and the result has been entirely positive. The benefits include better hygiene, with odour and smegma entirely eliminated, better comfort, improved appearance so far as my wife is concerned and greater self esteem as a result. However, the most significant benefit has been vastly enhanced quality of sexual sensation and pleasure during intercourse, both for me and for my wife. There really is no downside to being circumcised and I can say this with the authority of one who KNOWS from personal experience, rather from reading and listening to "bleeding heart" anti-circumcision activists. Circumcising a son is doing him a favour and I certainly wish that I had been circumcised at the beginning of my life. I would not have a foreskin again for all the tea in China!

Log in to reply

Craig Ginsberg

Flag as inappropriate

7:07pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Read here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive_dissonance

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:39pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Wow Richard, that's just super. And just like you, all men deserve the dignity to make up their

own mind on the issue.

Hugh7

Flag as inappropriate

7:39pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Your expression "foreskin lover" reminds me of the old racist gibe that began with the n-word.

Your parents were wise enough to leave not only your foreskin, which many men enjoy having, but with it the choice to have it off if you didn't. That proved to be the case, but for the VAST majority of men, it doesn't.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

9:26pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Richard, I totally agree with you. My experience is similar to yours. I only wished I had been circumcised at birth.

Unfortunately, none of the anti-circ people will acknowledge what we know and accept that.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

9:30pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Hugh7, no favor was done for Richard or me. What don't you understand about we're much happier without foreskin and wish we had been circumcised at birth? I didn't want the "choice". It was hard to find a doctor who would circumcise me. I wanted it done in my teens but only in my 20's was able to find someone who agreed it would be a good thing. And I had to deal with erections at night after being circumcised.

If it had been done at birth it would not have been a big deal.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

9:38pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

nobody said: "Hugh7, no favor was done for Richard or me. What don't you understand about we're much happier without foreskin and wish we had been circumcised at birth?"

It's great that you had the choice, all men deserve that respect.

nobody said: ""I didn't want the "choice". It was hard to find a doctor who would circumcise me. I wanted it done in my teens but only in my 20's was able to find someone who agreed it would be a good thing. "

So, it seems that when the doctors turned you away, because it was not necessary, you couldn't take a hint.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

11:00pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

So I couldn't take a "hint" as you say? I thought you wanted to give adults a choice. I guess not.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

11:04pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

No you can do it, even if it goes against medical advice. I have no problem with that; people certainly do more foolish things. The doctor though has no obligation to accommodate your non-medically, non-beneficial request though.

Frank OHara

Flag as inappropriate

8:26pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@ nobody: "Frank, how do you know that the high circumcision rate in the US has nothing to do with the low rate of heterosexual infection"

It's a simple matter of immunology. If circumcision were truly 60%+ effective, HIV would be virtually absent in The US. Instead, The US has the highest infection rate of all industrialized nations. We simply look at other interventions with similar efficacy rates and the results of those. If the claimed rate is similar, the effects would be similar. For instance, the polio vaccine was only 70% effective yet virtually wiped the disease from the populace. If male circumcision were 60%+ effective, we would see similar results as we saw from the polio vaccine and those results are not seen. Not in America and not anywhere else in the world.

"For the record, the polio vaccine is much more effective than you claimed"

If you have proof, show it.

"The Salk vaccine had been 60 - 70% effective against PV1 (poliovirus type 1),"

Yes, that's exactly what I claimed. Thank you for agreeing with me. This was the vaccine used in the early 1950's that virtually wiped the disease from the populace. By the early 1960's, the disease was only a distant memory. I was there and I remember the victims. New victims virtually disappeared by the mid 1950's.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:35pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Frank, you need to think a little bit deeper. HIV is virtually absent in the heterosexual population in the US compared to the homosexual population. The high rate of HIV in the US is because the people infected are anal receptive or IV drug users and circumcision doesn't help them. Please pass this along. I'm getting tired of saying this over and over.

You left off the rest of what I pointed you at for the original polio vaccine which showed it's much more effective against other strains of HIV.

But maybe I am agreeing with you in that the heterosexual community hasn't been afflicted with HIV and the 50-60% effectiveness of circumcision is the reason why.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

9:45pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

nobody: "HIV is virtually absent in the heterosexual population in the US compared to the homosexual population."

The situation is very similar in the rest of the first world. Tell me, do you actually know what the approximate prevalence of HIV is in the heterosexual US population?

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:18am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Frank:

"If circumcision were truly 60%+ effective, HIV would be virtually absent in The US" -- that's the second time you've made that claim, but I've already presented a modelling study showing predicting a 45% to 67% reduction in HIV rates.

Hugh7

Flag as inappropriate

8:26pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"To cut or not to cut" is NOT the question. The question is whether to cut a normal, healthy, functional, non-newable part off a newborn baby, or to just LEAVE HIS GENITALS ALONE. The default position is to leave him alone. It also respects his individuality.

"In modern America, circumcision is widely practiced among most men just because boys don't want to look different in the locker room. " (1) It isn't practised among men, but on babies (2) because the men THINK intact boys will be teased (3) with the rate somewhere near 50:50 it's a tossup who will look different. But another way to put that is, to make them CONFORM. "If they were

all jumping off a cliff...?"

"the number one reason why he recommends circumcision is the statistical reduction in sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV."

"Statistical[ly significant]" here just means, "unlikely to be due to chance." That doesn't make it worth doing.

Penile cancer is vanishingly rare, and rarer in non-circumcising Denmark than the US. No good study has demonstrated a direct correlation between non-circumcision and cervical cancer.

Circumcised men "have no complaints" because they don't know what they're missing.

Complications are underreported.

This article has a Circumcision Objectivity Coefficient (COC) of 6. See <http://www.circumstitions.com/write.html>

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:39pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Thank you for the link to yet another anti-circ web site.

If there are significant health benefits to circumcision then, it seems to me that parents have a responsibility to circumcise their sons.

Would you agree with that?

If you do, then it's time to figure out if the health benefits are enough to warrant circumcision.

If you disagree, then I want to know if you think there is some point where the health benefits would be

enough for you to say that circumcision is a good thing.

Frank OHara

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:29pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@ Jake W.: "Wrong. The South African trial, for example, was stopped at an average follow-up

period of 18.1 months.”

Wrong back at you. All three studies were ended early. The first was ended in the 11th month with a scheduled 13 months to go.

@ Jake W: “By whom and on the basis of what evidence?”

The study was scheduled for 24 months but was abruptly ended at 11 months. The funding was in place for the full run so there was no apparent reason to stop the studies

@ Jake: “Halperin wasn't involved with any of the trials. Bailey was involved with one of the three trials, and is hardly a "radical circumcision promoter".

Yes, Halperin was involved in the first study. I read his announcement of being involved in the study back then. Now, Halperin had been working with various gay groups in the California area promoting circumcision to those groups. This was publicly posted so there is no arguing it.

Bailey had also been involved with promoting circumcision back in the early 1980's. It is a matter of public record. I suppose he had been promoting it long before that but the internet was in it's toddler stages and there was no information before the 1980's.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:41pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Please point me at the public records you mentioned.

If Halperin has evidence that circumcision is beneficial, then why shouldn't he be promoting it?

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:23am on Friday, May 13, 2011

"Wrong back at you. All three studies were ended early. The first was ended in the 11th month with a scheduled 13 months to go." -- Wrong again. To quote: "The trial was stopped at the interim analysis, and the mean (interquartile range) follow-up was 18.1 mo (13.0–21.0) when the data were analyzed." <http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pmed.0020298>

"The study was scheduled for 24 months but was abruptly ended at 11 months. The funding was in place for the full run so there was no apparent reason to stop the studies" -- would you please answer my question? You said: "It is suspected that the rates of infections were beginning to climb and the study was ended before they could". Who suspects this and on the basis of what?

"Yes, Halperin was involved in the first study. I read his announcement of being involved in the study back then." -- read the authors list.

"Bailey had also been involved with promoting circumcision back in the early 1980's. It is a matter of public record." -- in that case I'm sure you'll be able to find some evidence.

Frank OHara

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:32pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Bailey had also been involved with promoting circumcision back in the early 1980's. It is a matter of public record. I suppose he had been promoting it long before that but the internet was in its toddler stages and there was no information before the 1980's.

@ Jake: "One modelling study predicted that: "With 80% male circumcision uptake, the reductions in [HIV] prevalence ranged from 45% to 67%."

Surely you realize that not all research is correct and some is actually fabricated like the so called study you tried to foist on the public falsely showing a connection between circumcision and prostate cancer. Luckily for the public and I'm sure to your chagrin, the "study was never published because the medical journal discovered your deception.

@ Tina Tuszynski: "Regardless of the controversy over the medical benefits, an uncircumcised boy is still going to be in the minority"

Rethink who will be in the minority. As announced by The Centers for Disease Control, the 2009 infant circumcision rate was a mere 32.5%. That means an intact boy will be in the 67.5% majority.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:45pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Deception? What a charged word. Why do you think anyone would intentionally publish research

that could
easily be proven false?

Please point me at that CDC information about circumcision rates. I think I saw it awhile ago and if I recall correctly the rate they came up with was a side effect of what they were actually studying. It wasn't intended to be a study about circumcision rates. Yet somehow the anti-circ people liked the number that was put out and broadcast that.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:29am on Friday, May 13, 2011

"Surely you realize that not all research is correct and some is actually fabricated like the so called study you tried to foist on the public falsely showing a connection between circumcision and prostate cancer. Luckily for the public and I'm sure to your chagrin, the "study was never published because the medical journal discovered your deception." -- this is news to me, I'm afraid.

Returning to the subject, do you have anything substantial to say on the subject of this modelling study, or just a vague, unsupported claim that it is somehow falsified?

Nobody: You're absolutely correct. The CDC and SDI both distanced themselves from the figures. See: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/17/health/research/17circ.html?_r=1&ref=health

Frank OHara

Flag as inappropriate

8:39pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@ Tina Tuszynski: "Children can be incredibly cruel and someone who is different is fair game for teasing and bullying. In my opinion, I would not want to subject my child to having to deal with all that teasing from other children."

Then you should not circumcise your child because he will be in the minority and will be the one teased. Depending on the area, he could be in a much smaller minority.

@ Frances Magriz “The only reason that should be considered is if he is having complications as he gets older such as, recurring infections.”

Think about this one: If your daughter was having recurring genital infections, would you consider having the infected parts cut off? This is a legitimate question because the infections boys get are the exact same bacterials, virals and fungals that girls get. Should girls get effective medications and boys get surgery? The same medications that are effective for girls are equally effective for boys. It is a simple scientific fact that these pathogens can not discern or discriminate between male and female cells.

@ Frances Magriz “The reason he did it was because he didn't want his girlfriend to feel odd or weird about it so he did the surgery.”

I think a foreskin is the best defense against “Dumb women.” What do you think?

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:48pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Frank, if there was research that showed that girls could BENEFIT from removing certain butts with no downside, then I think that would be advocated too.

To answer your question, I think the best defense against foreskin is smart women who know the risks.

Frank OHara

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:43pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@ Frances Magriz “I made the mistake of seeing a video when a baby is circumcised and it was noted that is the worse pain a baby can feel, so I passed on that decision.

Now you probably realize it was not a mistake. It allowed you to see the abuse these infants suffer and you protected your son against it. There are some who believe the procedure is painless but you saw differently. You saw the truth. The reality was shown in the last survey of circumcising doctors. Only 6% provide pain management (anesthesia) for their tiny patients. That is abuse!

@ Jake W.: "how odd. Krieger et al reported on the circumcisions of 1,391 adult men. 64% described their penis as more sensitive *after* circumcision"

Not odd at all. Immediately following circumcision, it is common for adult patients to report this but after three years, they report quite differently. One man reported the difference as being able to see in color and then only being able to see black and white.

@ Nobody: "Craig, take a look at this:

http://circinfo.net/circumcision_sensitivity_sensation_sexual_function.html

There are plenty of references in their about sensitivity and sexual satisfaction."

This is a site owned by a sexual fetishist. Why are you going there??? Why are you using such a site for support of your argument? Do you really think that is what expectant parents want to rely on?

Log in to reply

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

9:54pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Frank, it's been over 30 years since I was circumcised. And I would do it again and again if foreskin grew back.

No regrets at all. Wish it had been done at birth.

Why do you have to make personal attacks on the author of circinfo.net? What makes you think he's a sexual fetishist?

Do you have any evidence to support that? I'm pretty sure he's married with children and I have not seen any

evidence that there's anything wrong about him. He simply is a researcher and points out the facts.

They may not be what you like but instead of going after him, go after his research.

I think expectant parents want to see evidence and not just the emotional anti-circ rhetoric.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:35am on Friday, May 13, 2011

"The reality was shown in the last survey of circumcising doctors. Only 6% provide pain management (anesthesia) for their tiny patients." -- care to provide a source for that? It contradicts a 1998 study in which 45% used anaesthesia (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9606247>), and more recent studies suggesting that this figures has increased.

"Not odd at all. Immediately following circumcision, it is common for adult patients to report this but after three years, they report quite differently." -- Citations please. And if you bothered to read Krieger, you'd have seen that this report was as of 24 months after circumcision.

"This is a site owned by a sexual fetishist." -- don't make libellous allegations.

Frank OHara

Flag as inappropriate

8:48pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@ Nobody: "If you guys had the research on your side you wouldn't need to do that."

There is actually a dearth of reliable research supporting infant circumcision and there is plethora of research against it. This is reflected in The AAP's policy position about it.

@ Nobody: "Dolores, must you use scare tactics? It's hardly mutilation. If anything circumcision perfects the imperfect."

Nobody, you must certainly be Jewish as this is a justification for infant circumcision among Jews. The human body is God's creation and is thus perfect. Humans arrive on the planet in perfect condition as far as the design goes. Yes, flaws do happen when the design is not carried out but for a normal male, the foreskin is part of the perfect design.

@ Nobody: "I wouldn't be advocating circumcision if I didn't think there were far more benefits which outweigh the risks."

Then you must be smarter than the world's medical associations because they do not know of these benefits.

Log in to reply

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

9:58pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

The AAP has been on the fence about circumcision. If I recall, the statement says that there are health benefits to circumcision but not enough to recommend routine circs. They left it up to parents and then recommended that those who decide to circumcise should ask for local anesthesia.

I believe your statement that the AAP is against circumcision is wrong.

Foreskin is God's mistake which is probably why he wanted it removed. ;-)

Actually, if you think the theory of evolution is valid, then foreskin probably played a roll when men didn't have clothes.

I don't claim to be smarter than anybody. The world's medical associations are only now catching up with the latest research.

Frank OHara

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:51pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@ Nobody: "It's hardly hurting a helpless child any more than vaccinating a helpless child."

Both The AAP and The AMA have conducted research to quantify the pain of infant circumcision and both have found it to be incredibly painful. In addition, three surveys (1979, 1989 and 1999) found an average of 229 deaths per year from circumcisions. In 2009, the deaths decreased to 117 but the circumcision rate also dropped by half. The DEATH RATE remained essentially the same at about 1 death per 7,000 circumcision procedures.

@ Nobody: "If the health benefits are real, then it would in fact be irresponsible and negligent NOT to circumcise, don't you think?"

The health benefits DO NOT EXIST. That would make it irresponsible for a parent to circumcise if they know this and have done their own research It would also be irresponsible for a parent to concede to infant circumcision if they know only a very small percentage of infants receive pain management for the procedure.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:02pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

The health benefits exist even though you're unwilling to acknowledge them.

I don't know why you think only a small percentage of infants receive pain management.

Even if that's true, then maybe you should be advocating for pain management.

However, I know an OB/GYN who says that 90% of the babies she circumcises sleep through the procedure.

It's time to update your video of the screaming baby. If that still happens, it's time to fix that with anesthesia.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:40am on Friday, May 13, 2011

"In addition, three surveys (1979, 1989 and 1999) found an average of 229 deaths per year from circumcisions." -- actually, several *estimates* were published, all of which extrapolated from the death rate published in Gairdner's 1949 paper (which mostly represented deathss due to general anaesthesia in older boys). Since they multiplied the same numbers, it's unsurprising that they reached the same results.

"In 2009, the deaths decreased to 117" -- according to a flawed estimate by Bollinger, see: <http://circumcisionnews.blogspot.com/2010/05/fatally-flawed-bollingers-circumcision.html>

"The DEATH RATE remained essentially the same at about 1 death per 7,000 circumcision procedures." -- actually about 1 in 500,000. See:

<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/clinical/clinicalrecs/c/circumcision.html>

"The health benefits DO NOT EXIST." -- wrong, sorry.

Frank OHara

Flag as inappropriate

9:02pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@ Nobody: "There are far more important things that parents decide for their children -- where they send them to school, what religious indoctrination they give them..."

Um, no. Parents usually have no choice about school. The child goes to school in their district or they go to private school and most parents simply can't afford private schools.

Religious doctrine can be changed when the child is an adult. The Minister at my Baptist Church was a Jew. Now he's a Baptist. Once circumcised, there is little a man can do about it. What's gone is gone forever.

@ Delores: "Tina, these adults you are mentioning are free to get circumcised if that is their wish. I have a hard time believing that their foreskins were not valuable to them in their lives."

Yes, Delores. Few intact men want to be circumcised. A survey in Journeyman Magazine in 1992 found that only 6/10ths of 1% of intact have ever wished that they were circumcised. They are very aware of what their parents gave them when they decided not to rob them of sexually sensitive tissue. That same poll also found that only 3% had ever even considered getting circumcised. This flies in the face of the myth of men that wished they were circumcised.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:07pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

No choice about school? Parents I know have decided where to live so they get to send their kids to public schools that they find desirable.

If only it were that easy to get over religious doctrine. When you're a vulnerable child and believe what you're your taught, it's very hard to get over that. I know, I was raised Catholic (not something I would have chosen for myself) and it's extremely difficult to get over the guilt.

Once circumcised, a man can have it restored if he so choses. Nobody I know understands why anyone would would that back. And I agree.

Frank OHara

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:06pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@ nobody: "Dolores, I am one of those cut in my 20's because I found foreskin impossible to keep clean"

This identifies you as a troll. Foreskin cleaning is superbly easy and pleasurable. Just pull the foreskin back and then wash the same as a circumcised penis. NO DIFFERENCE AT THAT POINT! Some how you remind me of another Jewish guy who cruises parenting sites. He has said he was circumcised at 7 years old, 18 years old and 37 years old. In fact, he was circumcised at 8 days old. These are only three of many lies he has told all in order to try to build his credibility. Is that what you're doing? Virtually all Jews are circumcised at 8 days old. How did you escape the knife? Is your name Michael?

@ nobody: "Must you say mutilated? It's not mutilation. A circumcised penis is fully functional."

Is a car with missing parts "fully functional?" It may be drivable but is it really fully functional? Probably not and the circumcised penis is not fully functionable. It is now known that circumcised men go impotent a full 7 years before genitally intact men. That is not fully functional. It is also believed by researchers that circumcised penises are fully to blame for "female arousal syndrome," a condition that affects post menopausal women that makes sexual intercourse extremely painful. So painful in fact that many can not participate in sexual relations with their lovers/husbands.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:11pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

A troll? What do you mean by that? Must you resort to insults? I was circumcised in my 20's. I was raised Catholic. I don't know why I wasn't circumcised at birth.

There's no difference about cleanliness when it's being cleaned. But as I keep pointing out, whatever it is that makes it dirty is an ongoing process. If you don't think so, when you wake up tomorrow, stick your finger under that foreskin, rub it around, then smell your finger. When you recover, tell me how clean it is.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:12pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"Is a car missing parts fully functional." Yes if the parts are unnecessary. I would say a car without an ash tray is fully functional. Wouldn't you?

Frank OHara

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:07pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Just some anecdotal information, do you know that circumcised American men consume 54% of the entire world's production of Viagra? Did you know that (circumcised) Israel is the worlds leading counterfieter of Viagra type products? Did you know that Malaysia (Muslim and circumcised) is the highest per capita consumer of Viagra type products? That's some damning evidence.

@ Nobody: "Who's brain is it Dolores? Like I said before, parents make decisions for their kids that will affect them for life."

What other body parts (or accessories) do parents have a "right to have removed from their child (male or female)? If they actually have this degree of dominance over their children, why is illegal to tattoo a child in most states? If it is actually parental choice, why are parents put in jail for tattooing their child? Why do they not have this degree of Parental authority?

@ Nobody: "An uncircumcised penis is never as clean as a circumcised one. Think about it. When do you think it gets dirty under that foreskin. It's a continuous process. Once you're done cleaning the process continues.

Actually, biologically speaking the intact (uncircumcised) penis is cleaner. The preputal space is bathed in the enzymes langerin and liposome. These two enzymes jobs are to destroy harmful bacteria. The circumcised penis does not have these two guardians so the bacteria flourish.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:15pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

"Actually, biologically speaking the intact (uncircumcised) penis is cleaner."

I can only LOL on that one! Nice try. Go smell it and tell me how much cleaner you think it is.
So if the foreskin destroys harmful bacterial, then why is it that balanitis occurs in foreskin?
The studies I've seen show that anaerobic bacteria grown under the foreskin causing inflammation which makes it easier for STD's to enter.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:58pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Frank, I didn't know that about Viagra and circumcision. Do you have any details so we can verify that?

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:43am on Friday, May 13, 2011

"Actually, biologically speaking the intact (uncircumcised) penis is cleaner. The preputal space is bathed in the enzymes langerin and liposome. These two enzymes jobs are to destroy harmful bacteria. The circumcised penis does not have these two guardians so the bacteria flourish." -- wrong. See: the 15 studies listed here: <http://www.circs.org/index.php/Library/Topic/Bacteria>

Frank OHara

Flag as inappropriate

9:11pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@ Tina Tuszynski: "And I'm sure you know that any surgery is much more dangerous when you are older."

That is definitely not true. Adult circumcision is actually safer and less painful than infant circumcision. The medical record tells of more than 7,000 infant circumcision DEATHS in the past 30 years but only two adult circumcision deaths. Also, adults get full anesthesia/analgesia for the procedure while it is relatively rare for infants. These two are part of the mythology of pro-circumcisionists.

@ Nobody: "Reduced risk of HIV is only one of the many health benefits of circumcision. If the condom breaks, wouldn't you like to have that extra protection?"

The foreskin is not implicit in HIV or any other STD. This is a myth perpetrated by circumcision promoters. If they were correct, The US would be remarkably free of these diseases. Instead, The US is a world leader in infections.

@ Nobody: "If foreskin grew back, I'd have it removed time and time again.
Sex is so much better WITHOUT it."

I suspect you are deceiving us. We now know you are Jewish and it is almost certain you were circumcised on the eighth day of life. This means you have no experience with a foreskin.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:21pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Frank, huh? If I had been circumcised as an infant with anesthesia as is recommended now, I wouldn't remember it, I wouldn't have had night time erections to deal with, it would have healed much faster
and I wouldn't have had to abstain from sex.

Please send details of the medical records you mentioned.

How many times do we have to go over the stats in the US. Do you want me to tell you again.

Saying that foreskin is not implicit in HIV or any other STD just flies in the face of science.

I'm not Jewish, I was raised Catholic. And I did have an experience with a foreskin until my 20's when

I managed to get it removed. Unfortunately, my scar line is uneven because it's difficult to do a good
job on adults.

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:45am on Friday, May 13, 2011

"That is definitely not true. Adult circumcision is actually safer and less painful than infant circumcision" -- Wrong again: "there are several published studies of circumcision complications among adolescent and adult men (Table 6) and these indicate a generally higher frequency of complications than seen in neonates, infants and children" <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2490/10/2>

Frank OHara

Flag as inappropriate

9:12pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@ Nobody: "Reduced risk of HIV is only one of the many health benefits of circumcision. If the condom breaks, wouldn't you like to have that extra protection?"

The foreskin is not implicit in HIV or any other STD. This is a myth perpetrated by circumcision promoters. If they were correct, The US would be remarkably free of these diseases. Instead, The US is a world leader in infections.

@ Nobody: "If foreskin grew back, I'd have it removed time and time again.
Sex is so much better WITHOUT it."

I suspect you are deceiving us. We now know you are Jewish and it is almost certain you were circumcised on the eighth day of life. This means you have no experience with a foreskin.

@ Nobody: " Dolores, parents do their duty when they do what's best for their children.
Based on the scientific evidence, circumcision a a good thing.

Based on scientific evidence, circumcision is simply a money maker for the medical profession. In it's latest policy statement, The AAP does not recognize any benefits while they do acknowledge RISKS. This is a bona fide medical fraternity composed of doctors and researchers. "Nobody" and Jake are not medical professionals. Jake is involved in another profession altogether far from medicine. If "Nobody" is who I suspect he is, he is most likely a server in a restaurant. Get your information from reliable sources.

Log in to reply

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:46am on Friday, May 13, 2011

"In it's latest policy statement, The AAP does not recognize any benefits while they do acknowledge RISKS." -- Frank, why do you keep making these demonstrably untrue claims. Here is the AAP policy statement, where they clearly identify multiple benefits:
<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;103/3/686>

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:21am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Frank, I don't know Jake and I'm not a server in a restaurant. I'm not a medical professional, but so what?
Are you? I kind of doubt it. What's your point anyway. It's pretty easy for anyone to prove you wrong.
Jake seems to be very good at citing references which disprove things you claim as facts.

Tina Tuszynski

Flag as inappropriate

9:43pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

@Frank O'Hara - The context of my statement was referring to an older man in his late 70's. I think you'd agree that any surgery performed on a 78 year old man has more danger associated with it.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:44pm on Thursday, May 12, 2011

Tina, I don't see how Frank could disagree with you but somehow he might...

dolores

Flag as inappropriate

12:47am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Tina,

I do not agree with you Tina. A seventy-eight year old man can weigh the risks and benefits as an adult and give or not give his consent for the surgery. Every surgery has dangers. That is why it is important for the patient to make the determination whether or not to have the operation. The choice should not be made by anyone else.

When a grown man has a circumcision, he is given general anesthesia. When he wakes up, he is given pain killers in his IV. After he leaves the hospital, he gets oral pain medication. Unlike a baby, he can decide how much pain relief he needs and get that pain relief for himself.

Also, the foreskin of an grown man has already retracted. A baby's foreskin is adhered to his glans, so when a baby has a circumcision, his penis is cut apart. The whole glans is an open wound. Then that open wound gets put in a diaper and contaminated throughout the day and night with urine and feces.

A grown man can urinate without getting urine on his wound and he certainly will not get any feces on it at all.

It is unquestionably dangerous to have an open wound in the diaper of an incontinent person. It is unethical to operate for no therapeutic reason on a human being without their consent.

[Log in to reply](#)

Tina Tuszynski

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:07am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Dolores, we'll just have to agree to disagree. While you have good points regarding the man over the baby, it is still not safe to have surgery at an advanced age, especially if there are other health reasons. Doctors are generally cautious about performing unnecessary surgeries with anesthesia on the elderly because there is always a greater chance of complications. My grandfather died because of a necessary surgery due to these very complications; i.e. difficulties with breathing, reactions to the anesthesia, heart issues, etc.

So the only point I make is that by the time you get to that age, you may find that you have other considerations to worry about that may prevent you from getting the surgery.

dolores

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:58am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Nobody: You say you could not keep your penis clean when it was intact. Perhaps that is why it smelled bad, huh?

My husband has no problem keeping clean. he has never had an issue with odor.

His brothers are intact and their wives have told me that they have no problems whatsoever.

My father is intact and 78 and in great health. No problems. My mother says he has never had a problem staying clean and she has noticed no unpleasant odor.

Stay away from the children. That's all. Adults may do as they wish. Children need to be protected.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:23am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Children do indeed need to be protected. And they also should be given the best health benefits as well.

Richard

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:09am on Friday, May 13, 2011

I cannot believe that I'm reading such ridiculous, uninformed bigotry on the subject of circumcision, seemingly posted either by anti-circumcision campaigners, or naive young women, who obviously don't have a penis, but who appear to have bought in to the anti-circumcision propaganda which abounds on the 'net today and which comes from a small, but highly vocal minority of "activists".

Twenty five years ago, I chose to have my fully and freely retractable foreskin removed as an adult and I can tell you that the results are entirely positive, to the extent that I regard being circumcised as one of the best things that ever happened to me. The benefits include better hygiene, comfort, appearance and self-esteem. However, the most important and significant benefit of circumcision is the overwhelmingly improved quality of sexual sensation and pleasure during intercourse, both for me and for my wife - if this consequence of circumcision were more widely known, there would be lines outside every circumcision clinic in the land and half the manufacturers of sexual aids would go bankrupt! There is quite simply, NO downside to being circumcised. I KNOW all this because I well remember what adult life was like as a so-called "intact" man and I can unequivocally say that I

would never want to go back to having a foreskin and I only wish that I had been circumcised as an infant, so that I could have enjoyed the benefits throughout my formative years and early adult life.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:24am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Richard, I totally agree with you!

dolores

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:20am on Friday, May 13, 2011

That is a fine wish for you to wish, Richard. For yourself.

Take that up with your mother.

But stay away from the babies.

Your wish for yourself must not be inflicted irreparably on to anyone else without their consent.

Anti-circumcision propaganda Richard? Nope. I am a Registered Nurse and I worked in urology surgery for many years. My boss made his living repairing botched infant and child circs. He still makes his living that way, 15 years later. These are boys and men coming to have more surgery to try to correct the first surgery they never agreed to have. This situation is more common than people realize, because men do not openly or publicly discuss their penis problems. Men are conditioned to believe and to say that everything about their penis is fine and wonderful, whether or not it truly is.

[Log in to reply](#)

Richard

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:50am on Friday, May 13, 2011

That's more of a criticism of the incompetent medics who are allowed to perform minor surgery Dolores. Because an idiot botches a circumcision, that does not detract from the benefits which acru from a correctly performed one and more than a drunken driver crashing his car means

that all cars should be banned!! All sorts of surgery is botched from time to time and there is no excuse for this, but the benefits of circumcision are so life-enhancing that your energy would be better expended on campaigning for better quality surgery, than attempting to rob people of one of the most effective body improvements that is available.

Richard

Flag as inappropriate

3:52am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Correction - that should read "ANY more that a drunken driver" etc

[Log in to reply](#)

Suanne

Flag as inappropriate

5:46am on Friday, May 13, 2011

I have never reade so much tripe in my life, from idiots who seem to love foreskins,Theyey are bnothing but germ carry carrying filthy thingsw. I am delighted that my husband was birth circ,d., So is he, Our son was also done at birth.He is now Eighteen and delightede we had him done. No oner here has mentioned that a lot of boys and men have to be done when older owing to medical conditrons. Plus thye link between Cervical cancer in women and uncirc'd., partners. I have several links,from variouis medical organisations regarding this.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/1921837.stm> <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/1921837.stm> And loads more,Suzanne.

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:53am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Wow, Susanne, Cervical Cancer? It's a good thing there is a vaccine against that. It's been more than six years since it's been available. Perhaps it's time to update your sources.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:29am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Suzanne, the anti-circ people try to pretend there are no health benefits to circumcision and no problems with foreskin.

There's plenty of documentation on the health benefits of circumcision, which of course the anti-circs would like to ignore. Thanks for the link.

Tony

Flag as inappropriate

11:15am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Suzanne,

That fact that your husband and son are happy that they're circumcised says nothing about the legitimacy of non-therapeutic child circumcision.

nobody,

Circumcision has potential benefits. The foreskin, like any normal anatomical body part, can develop problems. So? Statistics demonstrate that most males left intact will not develop problems that require circumcision. That who develop some level of problem can almost always resolve the issue with methods far less invasive than surgery. You're arguing for a majority action to deal with a minority of cases. That's overreach.

The issue involves ethics, too. If the child doesn't need circumcision, what he wants matters. That you don't like foreskin is irrelevant to what someone else may want. Someone against circumcision and being circumcised himself doesn't need you to prefer the foreskin, as well.

rachel mores

Flag as inappropriate

6:56am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Oh , I'm so sorry for you for the misinformation you have accepted as truth. having had lots of bad experiences with modern medicine, i guess i was more willing to do my own research than trust some dr. So the truth is: girls can get (are MUCH more prone to) UTI's too, i had one once years

ago, but it is certainly not a reason to amputate labial parts of a girl. The prepuce is A PERFECTLY HEALTHY sensory organ with over 20,000 nerve endings. WE DO NOT ADVOCATE routinely CUTTING OFF EARLOBES- though ears can obviously get infections. I have serious trouble with this logic. Did you know that male breast cancer is actually much more common than the penile cancer you mention? There are much higher rates of AIDS and other STDS here in the good old USA- where most boys are cut, meanwhile in europe where MOST are NOT CUT there are lower rates. ? I'm so so sorry for your sons that your unyielding trust in drs led you to amputate a perfectly healthy part of the body of your children. And who really spends time comparing genitals? Whats done is done, it was done to my husband too. Its only now that i'm in my thirties I've come to be so horrified by our cultures mainstream acceptance of this kind of psychosexual abuse. Five years ago it was the birth of my son which prompted research and thought, and I'm proud to say that the cycle of violence has ended in our family - as my son and his cousins are all are intact. I wish others would look more closely at this.

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:10am on Friday, May 13, 2011

"The prepuce is A PERFECTLY HEALTHY sensory organ with over 20,000 nerve endings." - given that no study has ever counted the number, it seems rather irresponsible to make such claims.

"There are much higher rates of AIDS and other STDS here in the good old USA- where most boys are cut, meanwhile in europe where MOST are NOT CUT there are lower rates." -- generally true, though of course it would be an error to draw any conclusions about circumcision from that. To do do we need epidemiological studies, and those show that circumcision is protective.

rachel mores

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:18am on Friday, May 13, 2011

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1383844/Jamaal-Coleson-Jrs-parents-accuse-Manhattan-hospital-fatal-botched-circumcision.html#ixzz1LVqX4vpJ>

[Log in to reply](#)

rachel mores

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:19am on Friday, May 13, 2011

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6898403/ns/health-kids_and_parenting/t/rabbi-probed-circumcised-infants-herpes/

[Log in to reply](#)

rachel mores

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:25am on Friday, May 13, 2011

http://www.nnseek.com/e/uk.transport.london/circumcision_kills_419331m.html

[Log in to reply](#)

rachel mores

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:27am on Friday, May 13, 2011

<http://www.circinfosite.com/45.html>

[Log in to reply](#)

Dave S.

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:24pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

This post is significant.

rachel mores

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:35am on Friday, May 13, 2011

If adults want to have this procedure, or nipple piercings, or tattoos, or have their tongues or

earlobes cut off, I'm all for that. as an adult. with informed consent. none of these dead kids or any man who was cut as a baby ever has been given that informed choice to make about his own body. this guy was not happy about it, and was just awarded an undisclosed amount of money in a settlement with the hospital where he was cut as a newborn: <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=127183&page=1>

Log in to reply

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:33am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Rachel, you make a good case for finding a competent doctor to do circumcisions.

Doulalee

Flag as inappropriate

10:44am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Circumcision is nothing more than a money making enterprise for those who take part in one way or another. It is a human rights violation, has no medical benefits, unless to correct an already existing problem. It is a barbaric, painful, traumatizing, and totally unnecessary procedure that should be illegal everywhere.

Log in to reply

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

11:12am on Friday, May 13, 2011

Circumcision has life-long health benefits. When done properly with anesthesia, it isn't painful at all.

Why would you want to make such a simple procedure illegal when it will actually save lives?

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:53pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia says, "Routine infant male circumcision performed on a healthy infant is now considered a non-therapeutic and medically unnecessary intervention."

Dave S.

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:52pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

This is so subjective: "Circumcision has life-long health benefits. When done properly with anesthesia, it isn't painful at all."

Burden of proof is on you "nobody" - you are the affirmative team.

Neville

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:04pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

These messages are rabidly anti-circumcision. The only people who can comment truthfully on this are those like myself who were uncircumcised as a baby and got circumcised later. When I was born my mum asked the doctor about it and he said it was not necessary so I remained uncut. I had no problems with my foreskin as my mum insisted I pull it back and wash the head of my penis when I was a young child. I still hated it and was very envious of my colleagues who had been circumcised at birth. I finally got myself circumcised at the age of 40 and it was the best repeat the best decision I had ever taken!

All aspects of sex were a thousand times better, there was no stink, no smegma and aesthetically my penis was much better looking. It was never one of those vile anteater types that have never had their foreskins retracted since the day they were born but still ugly compared to a circumcised one.

No doubt people will say if you wash it the stink does not occur, before and after circumcision I washed my penis numerous times a day but that awful stink came back soon before I was cut.

I will get blasted by the anti circ brigade but I don't care. I know what is best

Neville in England

[Log in to reply](#)

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:29pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

Are you the same Neville from the UK whose comments are on the circlist.com website?

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:33pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

I wonder what the response would be if an advocate of female genital cutting wrote, "No doubt people will say if you wash it the stink does not occur, before and after circumcision I washed my vulva numerous times a day but that awful stink came back soon before I was cut."

Dave S.

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:38pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

"Are you the same Neville from the UK whose comments are on the circlist.com website?"

This is a relevant question, thank you Stan for posting.

Dave S.

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:43pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

From circlist: http://www.circlist.com/preferences/of_women.html

A mother decides to re-circumcise her sons....

After reading about re-circumcision on the CIRCLIST website I decided to have my two sons re-circumcised. I was never happy with the loose skin that was left over by the doctor at birth. (The

same Doctor did both boys). So I arranged it with a urologist and my sons, age 10 and 14 at the time, now have beautifully tight circumcisions. There is absolutely no movement of shaft skin towards the head of their penises, which I just adore and reckon that their future lovers and wives will adore it too and thank me for having it done. Now that the heads of their penises are fully exposed and permanently bared, I can personally say that the appearance is much sexier to look at and cleaner as well. I also encourage my boys to appreciate the look of their newly remodeled penises and to not be shy around girls because, when those girls get a look at their super tight circumcisions they will just go crazy for them.

Alexis (Canada)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:21pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

Neville, I feel the same way you do. But the anti-circ people can't imagine that we know what we're talking about and we're not alone.

[Log in to reply](#)

Cyn

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:06pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

"For me, the medical facts were the clincher."

The medical facts are that it's not medically necessary; those who believe it is are sorely misinformed.

[Log in to reply](#)

Cyn

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:08pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

"I finally got myself circumcised at the age of 40 and it was the best repeat the best decision I had ever taken!"

That's great you were afforded the ability to make this choice for *yourself* - which is as it should be!

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:22pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

Cyn, I haven't seen anybody say circumcision is "medically necessary".
What has been said and documented is that there is a lifetime of health benefits to being circumcised.

I wish my parents had made that choice for me, just like they did for vaccinations.

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:09pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

You, like other radical pro-circumcision advocates, devalue a normal, intact penis in the same way that advocates of female genital cutting devalue a normal, intact vulva. If you think that normal, intact genitals have no value, it is easy to justify cutting the genitals of boys and girls.

Tom

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:03pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

I'm circumcised and am not happy about it. It's dry and sometimes itchy, and feels uncomfortable against underwear. I've also become aware that I'm missing out on significant sexual pleasure. The reason they started performing circumcision in North America back in the 1860's was because they believed it would prevent masturbation, which was believed to be a cause of physical and mental illness. By removing the most erogenous, sexually pleasurable skin, they thought they would prevent this.

The foreskin acts as a protective layer which also helps with lubrication. A cut man is dried out. It also allows for moving action (gliding action), and the skin itself is densely packed with exquisitely

sensitive pleasure sensing nerve endings. Removing the foreskin removes the only moveable part of the penis, changing it from a moving organ to a stiff dowel-like organ. Also, complications are not uncommon. How much skin gets taken depends on the doctor. I know some men who have no frenulum left at all - this is quite common. Some doctors do tight circumcisions. Any circumcision is a huge loss, however. Most men just don't know it. If you have less chance of getting infections, it's only because you've got less penis to get infected.

Personally, I hate being circumcised. It's had a negative impact on my life. And after watching a video of it being done, and seeing a baby screaming and choking on its own saliva like that, I have lost much faith in human kind.

[Log in to reply](#)

Tom

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:04pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

Learn the history of it. Do a search for "A Short History of Circumcision in the U.S. in Physicians' Own Words" on the internet.

Also, do a search of "Cut vs. Uncut" images on the internet.

"What looks like a pin point opening at 7 months will become a wide channel of communication at 17." - Sir James Spence

"If anything is sacred, the human body is sacred" - Walt Whitman

[Log in to reply](#)

Dave S.

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:18pm on Friday, May 13, 2011

Thank you Tom for posting your feelings, I love your courage! It's important to have comments from the men that were circumcised without their consent. What circumcised man wants to admit he was denied his full sexual ability? (rhetorical)

"I've also become aware that I'm missing out on significant sexual pleasure.", I would have liked to experience sex as nature intended too. So, I agree!

Take care

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:16am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"What circumcised man wants to admit he was denied his full sexual ability? (rhetorical)" -- interestingly, it seems that those circumcised as adults *know* that they weren't adversely affected, while those susceptible to anti-circumcision propaganda believe otherwise.

Tony

Flag as inappropriate

11:37am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Jakew,

"Those susceptible to anti-circumcision propaganda" is a creative way to denigrate those you disagree with. Just pretend like there's only one side of the argument and that its level of subjectivity is reasonable and you no longer have to deal with anything other than your person utilitarian preferences. Is that roughly what you were going for there?

What I *know* is this: healthy boys have an ownership right in their own bodies, just like their sisters. No amount of possible benefits or cultural arguments justifies inflicting objective harm on their healthy bodies in pursuit of some subjective, not-guaranteed outcome. Ethics require the child to have the choice in which parts of his (or her) body he keeps, whether there's a universally accepted functionality or not. Even if circumcision wouldn't adversely affect him, stating it as an objective fact for all males is an error on your part. That you do not believe your adult circumcision adversely affected you is interesting, in an irrelevant way. It proves nothing about what other individuals will, may, or should believe about themselves. This is particularly so in cases of child circumcision, which is ethically different from adult circumcision.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

11:56am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

I'd say that "Just pretend [...] Is that roughly what you were going for there?" is a creative way to denigrate those you disagree with, Tony, wouldn't you?

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

11:56 am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Tony, "Those susceptible to anti-circumcision propaganda is a creative way to denigrate those you disagree with."

No, it's pointing out the the anti-circumcision people can't back up their claims with evidence. They spread misinformation "such as there are no health benefits to circumcision".

There's a lot of peer-reviewed research which shows the numerous health benefits of circumcision.

When the anti-circ people can't find anything wrong with the research, they make personal attacks on the researchers.

I have not seen circumcision proponents do anything like that. But there's no need to since the scientific evidence is on our side.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

11:58 am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Tony, "No amount of possible benefits or cultural arguments justifies inflicting objective harm on their healthy bodies"

There is no objective harm done. And do you really stand by that statement that "No amount of possible benefits..."?

Suppose research showed that circumcision at birth increased life expectancy by 20 years. Would you be for it then?

"Even if circumcision wouldn't adversely affect him, stating it as an objective fact for all males is an error on your part."

Why? If the benefits outweigh the risks, then I think parents are justified circumcising.

"That you do not believe your adult circumcision adversely affected you is interesting, in an

irrelevant way. It proves nothing about what other individuals will, may, or should believe about themselves."

I didn't say it did. Just my experience and it is shared by many others.

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:38pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Advocates of male circumcision devalue a normal, intact penis in the same way that advocates of female circumcision devalue a normal, intact vulva. When a person thinks that normal, intact genitals have no value, it is easy for them to believe that no objective harm is done when they cut off a normal part of a child's genitals.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:58pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Stan, if you repeat that often enough, maybe it will become true. ;-)

Nobody is simply devaluing anything. Comparing male circumcision to female "circumcision" is a nice try to scare people, but it's not a good comparison.

There is a plethora of research showing the life-long health benefits of male circumcision. Unfortunately, pointing you at the information doesn't seem to have any influence on what you continue to believe.

Parents have not only the right but an obligation to do what's best for their children. After looking at the pluses and minutes (without the hysterical anti-circ claims), parents can make an educated decision.

I don't have the right to force other parents to circumcise. Nor do you have the right to deny parents the opportunity to circumcise if they think that's what's best for their sons.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

2:23pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

nobody: "Nobody is simply devaluing anything."

You devalued a normal, intact penis when you wrote, "There are health benefits to cutting off a piece of unnecessary skin." and when you wrote, "Foreskin is God's mistake which is probably why he wanted it removed."

There are forms of female genital cutting that are less invasive than male circumcision. So yeah, some forms of female genital cutting can and should be compared to male circumcision. Parents in Africa and Indonesia cut their daughters' genitals for the same reasons that American parents cut their son's genitals. The main reason for cutting the genitals of children is culture and tradition.

In my opinion, culture and tradition are not very good reasons to cut the genitals of a healthy child, boy or girl.

The Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) does not agree with your extreme pro-circumcision point of view. The KNMG says, "There is no convincing evidence that circumcision is useful or necessary in terms of prevention or hygiene."

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:38pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"The Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) does not agree with your extreme pro-circumcision point of view" -- Stan, I don't think you're being very fair. The Dutch policy statement is not very representative, since it is far more anti-circumcision than any other policy statement, most of which are neutral or (recently) more positive towards circumcision. So it is hardly reasonable to contrast Nobody's position with the Dutch policy (which is itself an extreme).

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

2:59pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia says, "Infant male circumcision was

once considered a preventive health measure and was therefore adopted extensively in Western countries. Current understanding of the benefits, risks and potential harm of this procedure, however, no longer supports this practice for prophylactic health benefit. Routine infant male circumcision performed on a healthy infant is now considered a non-therapeutic and medically unnecessary intervention."

No professional medical organization claims there are compelling medical reasons to cut off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis. Because there is NO compelling medical reason to cut off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis, the decision should be left for the boy to make for himself when he is an adult.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

3:04pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

The American Academy of Pediatrics says it is "legitimate" for a doctor to cut off a normal part of a boy's penis if his parents request it for cultural or religious reasons.

There is no other normal, healthy part of a child's body that doctors will amputate for cultural or religious reasons.

There is no other surgery that doctors will perform of healthy children for cultural or religious reasons.

In my opinion, it is shameful that American pediatricians say it is "legitimate" for a doctor to cut off a normal part of a child's body for cultural or religious reasons!

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

3:14pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"No professional medical organization claims there are compelling medical reasons to cut off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis. Because there is NO compelling medical reason to cut off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis, the decision should be left for the boy to make for himself when he is an adult." -- that is your opinion, not theirs.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:04pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Jake said: "[...]with the Dutch policy (which is itself an extreme)."

I disagree. The Dutch policy represents a good balance of applying the subjective potential benefits within context and (this is where they really diverge from the others especially the Americans) the ethics involved in performing a non-therapeutic procedures on an individual who can't provide consent.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:13pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

nobody said: "No, it's pointing out the the anti-circumcision people can't back up their claims with evidence."

And here is what you can tell parents, "We won't circumcise your son because: "

RACP: "the frequency of diseases modifiable by circumcision, the level of protection offered by circumcision and the complication rates of circumcision do not warrant routine infant circumcision."

<http://tinyurl.com/3cw7jju>

or the Royal Dutch Medical Association: "There is no convincing evidence that circumcision is useful or necessary in terms of prevention or hygiene. Partly in the light of the complications which can arise during or after circumcision, circumcision is not justifiable except on medical/therapeutic grounds. Insofar as there are medical benefits, such as a possibly reduced risk of HIV infection, it is reasonable to put off circumcision until the age at which such a risk is relevant and the boy himself can decide about the intervention, or can opt for any available alternatives."

<http://tinyurl.com/3aj7854>

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

4:14pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"I disagree. The Dutch policy represents a good balance of applying the subjective potential benefits within context and (this is where they really diverge from the others especially the Americans)" -- given that you acknowledge that their policy differs from other policy statements, it seems to me that you're actually agreeing.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:48pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Only to the extent that they differ. I don't find the Dutch policy to be extreme in the least, it is the most rational one of all that I've seen and discusses the ethics more seriously than any other.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

4:56pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Perhaps we're talking at cross-purposes. By "extreme", I don't mean to imply anything about rationality or reasonableness, or lack thereof. I mean that, when the spectrum of various views expressed in policy statements are considered, the Dutch policy lies at the far end. I think whether the views expressed are reasonable or not is another question entirely.

Tony

Flag as inappropriate

11:46am on Friday, May 20, 2011

Jakew:

No, I wouldn't say that my statement is a creative way to denigrate those who disagree with me. You wrote "those susceptible to anti-circumcision propaganda". That's an implication that those against circumcision are mentally inferior to your wisdom. It's an implication that only stupid people oppose circumcision.

I did not make that point about you. I countered with logic to what you wrote. That's different than suggesting you're stupid for being pro-circumcision. You indicated that you "know" a subjective statement to be true, universally, as an objective fact. That's flawed analysis, but smart people can reach wrong conclusions.

I understand your view, and more or less how you got there. I'm not sure you could get there if you're stupid. Instead, I think you undervalue and/or disregard aspects of the debate that you shouldn't. I don't think you are as concerned with individuals as you should be. If you were, you wouldn't believe what you believe. But that's a very different opinion than believing or implying that you're mentally inferior.

Tony

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

11:54am on Friday, May 20, 2011

nobody:

Your supposition about extending life by 20 years begs the question you want to answer, not what is before us.

I haven't spread misinformation. Why suggest that misinformation is a universal trait, or that it's exclusive to those against non-therapeutic child circumcision? Surely we can both find examples on both sides of the debate.

For example: Pretending that circumcision causes no objective harm is false (i.e. misinformation). There is objective harm. Under the law, all surgery is battery because it causes direct harm to the recipient. It removes tissue. It removes nerve endings. It imposes surgical risk. Some patients experience complications beyond the expected harm. Etc. This is not up for debate. The argument you can attempt is that subjective benefits outweigh this objective harm.

The "benefits outweighing the risks" is a subjective claim. Whether it's true for the individual being circumcised is not contingent upon what his parents believe. Personally, I've acknowledged that circumcision has potential benefits. But I do not value them. I'd rather have my normal genitalia and a slightly higher risk of various (preventable, treatable) disorders. That's my personal evaluation. I do not demand that you share it as your own. It's correct for me.

The difference, as I see it, is that my viewpoint allows us both to get as close as possible to what we want. Your viewpoint allows us both to get as close as possible to what you want.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

12:33pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

"There is objective harm" -- surely that's an oxymoron? Strictly speaking, harm cannot be *objective*, because to decide whether something is harmful requires a value judgement. So the division that you're trying to impose - "subjective" benefits vs "objective" harm - is a fiction.

Tony

Flag as inappropriate

8:40am on Saturday, May 21, 2011

Jakew:

Deciding that something is harmful does not require a value judgment. It requires an understanding of before and after. Before circumcision, the individual has a healthy foreskin. After circumcision, the individual has a wound and no foreskin. Objectively, his body has been harmed by the surgery. It has altered him physically and permanently.

The value judgment is subjective and post-surgical. (It should be pre-surgical, but for children, it's not.) He either prefers what he will receive in place of his foreskin, or he doesn't. He will decide for his own reasons, which are unique to him based on his preferences and experience. Because they are his unique conclusion, they are subjective. They are not equally applicable to all males everywhere.

As I wrote to nobody, all surgery is battery under the law because it is harmful action. You're trying to change reality to fit your conclusion. As I wrote to you, I think you undervalue and/or disregard aspects of the debate that you shouldn't. Perhaps you should stop proving my point so objectively.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

10:17am on Saturday, May 21, 2011

"After circumcision, the individual has a wound and no foreskin. Objectively, his body has been harmed by the surgery." -- only if one assumes that it is better to have a foreskin than not, but that would beg the question.

"It has altered him physically and permanently." -- certainly, but that's not the same as harm.

"As I wrote to nobody, all surgery is battery under the law because it is harmful action." -- but asserting it is not the same as proving it.

"As I wrote to you, I think you undervalue and/or disregard aspects of the debate that you shouldn't." -- and you are, of course, free to hold that opinion.

Richard

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:16am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

What a load of uninformed, bleeding heart nonsense is flooding from the ranks of the anti-circumcision activists! Circumcision provides lifelong health and sexual benefits - of that there is NO doubt. Circumcision is best performed in infancy because the procedure is untraumatic nowadays with proper anaesthesia and the benefits are there from the beginning. From this it is obvious that responsible parents attend to the matter of circumcision early and their son grows up with the advantage from the beginning of his life. These anti-circ people remind me of the "hippies" of the 1960's - irresponsible, dirty and "against everything" !! There is no sensible argument against circumcision and responsible, educated parents will continue to have their sons circumcised, no matter how loudly the foreskin lovers wail!

[Log in to reply](#)

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:28pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

The Royal Dutch Medical Association does not agree with your extreme pro-circumcision point of view.

"There is no convincing evidence that circumcision is useful or necessary in terms of prevention or hygiene." ~ The Royal Dutch Medical Association

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

5:00pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Stan, of course you agree with the groups that support what you already believe.
Do those groups offer any evidence other than their opinions?
All I've ever seen from you are statements, but no research to back them up.

Richard

Flag as inappropriate

2:34am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

I'll just make a further comment - It seems to me that most of these anti-circumcision people fall into two camps, The first group consists of young women, who by definition do not have a penis and are usually in some type of relationship with an uncircumcised man; thus they cannot comment subjectively and in any case are prone to support the state of their lover. The second group consists of such uncircumcised men - they have always had foreskins and thus they are in denial concerning the improvement which circumcision gives to those lucky enough to have been circumcised. Lastly, the samll minority of men like "Tom" above, who claim to be circumcised and unhappy to be so - Tom would probably be equally (or more!) unhappy if he were uncircumcised, but he's been convinced by the anti-circ propaganda that all his problems would disappear if only he had a foreskin. I don't buy his story!

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

9:13am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Richard, once again you are right on the money!
Only guys circumcised as adults know that there's no advantage to having foreskin.
I wish I had been circumcised at birth.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

2:00pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

It seems that the most of the enthusiastic supporters of male genital cutting are all old guys who grew up in an era when male circumcision was the norm. I'm curious how old are you, Richard and nobody?

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

4:01pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

The link below is about climate change thinking but it applies to the anti-circ people who deny there are health benefits to circumcision. And if you think this applies to me being pro-circ, please present the evidence so I can respond.

"... head-on attempts to persuade can sometimes trigger a backfire effect, where people not only fail to change their minds when confronted with the facts — they may hold their wrong views more tenaciously than ever."

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/climate-weather/blogs/in-the-persuasion-game-beware-the-backfire-effect?hpt=Sbin>

Log in to reply

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

4:36pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

That applies to pro-circumcision advocates who deny a normal, intact penis has any value or function.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

4:18pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Joe, sure, let parents see all the evidence. Then they can make a rational decision.

'nobody said: "No, it's pointing out the the anti-circumcision people can't back up their claims with evidence."

Really? There wouldn't be any bias here, would there?

'And here is what you can tell parents, "We won't circumcise your son because: "'

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:46 pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Bias where? You're just telling them that: "the frequency of diseases modifiable by circumcision, the level of protection offered by circumcision and the complication rates of circumcision do not warrant routine infant circumcision."

This is why it isn't done.

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:50 pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

The paragraph continues: "However it is reasonable for parents to weigh the benefits and risks of circumcision and to make the decision whether or not to circumcise their sons."

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:44 pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

An unfortunate inconsistency in their statement which is difficult to reconcile with the previous one. Probably only added to satisfy those parents who have subjective needs to fulfill which have little (if anything) to do with the child. Defiantly loses lots of points for ethics.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

5:49pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

There's no inconsistency, Joe, unless you insist upon interpreting "routine" as "elective".

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:09pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Jake said: "There's no inconsistency, Joe, unless you insist upon interpreting "routine" as "elective"."

Are you again suggesting that routine would mean 'without consent'? It is inconsistent because if it isn't routine then there is nothing for the parents to think about or decide.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

6:19pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

"Are you again suggesting that routine would mean 'without consent'?" -- Routine, in the context of a *recommendation*, means that all newborn boys would receive a circumcision. It's a hypothetical recommendation, and consent is a matter of practicalities. What they're saying, like most other medical associations, is that there isn't enough of a net benefit to warrant making circumcision a procedure for all newborn boys, but that parents may reasonably make such a decision for their son instead. By analogy, think of a vaccination that is beneficial but not sufficiently so as to recommend it as a standard procedure.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

6:45pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

No, Jake, that is your pro-circumcision spin for the phrase "routine infant circumcision". Routine infant circumcision is elective, non-therapeutic circumcision of healthy boys.

If a doctor or nurse asks the parents, it is routine infant circumcision.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:50pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Jake said: "Routine, in the context of a *recommendation*, means that all newborn boys would receive a circumcision."

Routine will never mean 'all' or 'without consent' consent will always be required; even routine vaccinations require informed consent. If you can't justify the procedure for all then the procedure, by proxy consent, is only appropriate for therapeutic intent.

I'll add that the importance you seem to attach to consent is troubling, you make it seem as though it's an irritating detail as opposed to an important part of the process.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:43am on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"Routine will never mean 'all'" -- circumcision of all newborn boys in a country can never occur as a practical matter, but it could in principle be recommended.

"If you can't justify the procedure for all then the procedure, by proxy consent, is only appropriate for therapeutic intent." -- no, I wouldn't agree with that at all.

"I'll add that the importance you seem to attach to consent is troubling, you make it seem as though it's an irritating detail as opposed to an important part of the process." -- in a wider context it's very important, but in the narrow context of what medical bodies recommend, it's close to irrelevant.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

10:59am on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Jake said: ""If you can't justify the procedure for all then the procedure, by proxy consent, is only

appropriate for therapeutic intent." -- no, I wouldn't agree with that at all."

I can't see why. Ethically speaking, why would you believe it's appropriate to perform a procedure (by proxy) on someone where there is no therapeutic intent?

Jake said: "in a wider context it's very important, but in the narrow context of what medical bodies recommend, it's close to irrelevant."

You certainly don't act like it's important to you in any way, shape or form. Instead, you seem to believe that because you think something is good, it's fine to apply to everyone and that they must like that too. It's very difficult to believe, from what you've written, that you attach any importance on the individual or consent. You seem to see those as a burden, a mere road block that needs to be removed.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

11:16am on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"Ethically speaking, why would you believe it's appropriate to perform a procedure (by proxy) on someone where there is no therapeutic intent?" -- yes, provided that a) there's net benefit (though not necessarily medical benefit) to the patient, and b) there's appropriate proxy consent.

"You certainly don't act like it's important to you in any way, shape or form. Instead, you seem to believe that because you think something is good, it's fine to apply to everyone and that they must like that too" -- it's odd that you should get such an impression.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

2:32pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Jake said: "yes, provided that a) there's net benefit (though not necessarily medical benefit) to the patient, and b) there's appropriate proxy consent."

If there is no general problem that requires the intervention then we can only look at individual circumstances, what will essentially be individual choice or therapeutic need. I don't see what else is left. There isn't anything else to consider. Without that, proxy consent cannot be accepted because the individual has no need to consider.

Jake said: "-- it's odd that you should get such an impression" Not odd at all from every word I've ever seen you write. You clearly have little regard for the individual. Especially when you suggest that performing a medical procedure on an individual for no therapeutic need and without their consent is appropriate.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:39 pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"If there is no general problem that requires the intervention then we can only look at individual circumstances, what will essentially be individual choice or therapeutic need. I don't see what else is left." -- what you've overlooked is parental choice.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

2:48 pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

There are lifelong health benefits to circumcising at birth. The health benefits fare outweigh the risks.

Parent should have the choice to offer those benefits to their sons.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:30 pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Jake said: "If there is no general problem that requires the intervention then we can only look at individual circumstances, what will essentially be individual choice or therapeutic need. I don't see what else is left." -- what you've overlooked is parental choice."

I have not, if it was a relevant consideration I would have addressed it. Unless they are making some therapeutic decision for the child of course. There is no rational case that I've seen to allow non-therapeutic circumcision of children.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

4:39pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"There is no rational case that I've seen to allow non-therapeutic circumcision of children" -- to my mind parental choices are respected unless there is a good reason not to do so, so there needs to a persuasive case not to allow such circumcisions. I haven't seen any such arguments.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:01pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

" to my mind parental choices are respected unless there is a good reason not to do so, so there needs to a persuasive case not to allow such circumcisions. I haven't seen any such arguments."

* No therapeutic need and as has been said before, "[T]he frequency of diseases modifiable by circumcision, the level of protection offered by circumcision and the complication rates of circumcision do not warrant routine infant circumcision."

Let the individual choose, just like you did.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

6:05pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"No therapeutic need" -- lack of need is not an argument against doing something: for example, I don't need a glass of water, but that doesn't mean that I mustn't go and pour myself one.

"and as has been said before [...]" Interestingly, while discussing parental choice, the part you've omitted is actually that which explicitly discusses that: "However it is reasonable for parents to weigh the benefits and risks of circumcision and to make the decision whether or not to circumcise their sons."

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

6:12pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Jake said: "lack of need is not an argument against doing something: for example, I don't need a glass of water, but that doesn't mean that I mustn't go and pour myself one."

Well, it's up to you as it should be. I am not quite sure what that has anything to do with determining *therapeutic* needs or intent.

Jake said: "Interestingly, while discussing " Because it doesn't apply. They've already addressed the issue in the previous paragraph.

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

6:22pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"Well, it's up to you as it should be. I am not quite sure what that has anything to do with determining *therapeutic* needs or intent." -- we weren't discussing therapeutic needs, Joe. Quite the opposite, in fact. We were discussing your claim that: "There is no rational case that I've seen to allow non-therapeutic circumcision of children".

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

6:34pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

What does getting a glass of water have to do with non-therapeutic circumcision?

Michelle Williams

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:49pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Back to the original article, hey doc - tell your kid to slap on a condom instead. problem solved and no one is "cut"

[Log in to reply](#)

Richard

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:57am on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Stan Barnes, I think that you are perhaps a fireskin-lover! Age has nothing to do with this - I was circumcised as an adult, so whether it was the norm or not when I was an infant is irrelevant. However, I will just say that I was born in the era after the UK nhs had decided that routine circumcision was an expense that it could do without and when my mother tried to have me circumcised, she was refused because the doctors insisted that it was "unnecessary". Perhaps that will help you to get your mind right about this.

[Log in to reply](#)

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:14pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

You could also call me a "labia-lover" because I think cutting off a normal part of a healthy girl's vulva is just as unethical as cutting off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis. Or you could call me a "toe-lover" or an "era lobe-lover" because I think cutting off a child's toes or ear lobes for cultural reasons is crazy.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:41pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Joe said to Jake: It's impossible because (in the absence of therapeutic need) the amount of harm or benefit can only

be determined by the individual." ... "I don't find the reasons "benefits" even remotely compelling."

Joe, I strongly disagree with you. As I've said before, parents not only have the right but also the obligation

to do what's best for their children They get to determine the benefits vs. the risks when the child is not able to do so.

Whether or not a scar is an indication of harm, the incision has healed and the scar (which is just a discoloration if

done when an infant) is of no consequence.

Once again, I'll ask if circumcision is shown to extend life expectancy by 20 years, would you still think the "benefits"

aren't remotely compelling?

If a vaccine were available that provided all the health benefits of circumcision, we wouldn't be questioning

whether parents should be allowed to give that to their sons.

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

6:29pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

nobody said: "I strongly disagree with you."

Where it involves your body, that's your right.

nobody said: "As I've said before, parents not only have the right but also the obligation to do what's best for their children. They get to determine the benefits vs. the risks when the child is not able to do so."

This is not unfettered, there are limits. Should a parent be allowed to tattoo their child?

nobody said: "Whether or not a scar is an indication of harm, the incision has healed and the scar (which is just a discoloration if done when an infant) is of no consequence."

A scar is more than that, we've provided a number of definitions here that you can go back to. The consequence of that is subjective and only each individual can decide what they are and whether the damage done is worth the potential subjective benefit.

"Once again, I'll ask if circumcision is shown to extend life expectancy by 20 years, would you still think the "benefits" aren't remotely compelling?"

I can't make a comment on such a wild hypothetical. If you wanted to put it more in context with the "benefits" of circumcision, you might reduce that to a week.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:56pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Jake said to Joe: "Even if a foreskin were attached to a heavy rock, pulling a person to his doom into the mouth of an active volcano, cutting his foreskin would, according to you, constitute harm."

Jake, it seems we have to take things to extremes to get the anti-circ people to agree there might be good reasons to remove foreskin. The problem for them is that once they concede that, then we'd be discussing the benefits and risks to decide if the benefits are enough to justify parents deciding to circumcise. They can't handle that argument because there's some much evidence of the benefits, they'd lose that argument.

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

6:31pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

But Nobody, we've already discussed the benefits and risk. Did you miss it? Here it is again:

RACP: "the frequency of diseases modifiable by circumcision, the level of protection offered by circumcision and the complication rates of circumcision do not warrant routine infant circumcision."

<http://tinyurl.com/3cw7jju>

or the Royal Dutch Medical Association: "There is no convincing evidence that circumcision is useful or necessary in terms of prevention or hygiene. Partly in the light of the complications which can arise during or after circumcision, circumcision is not justifiable except on medical/therapeutic grounds. Insofar as there are medical benefits, such as a possibly reduced risk of HIV infection, it is reasonable to put off circumcision until the age at which such a risk is relevant and the boy himself can decide about the intervention, or can opt for any available alternatives."

<http://tinyurl.com/3aj7854>

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

6:34pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

or the CDC: "Medical benefits outweigh risks for infant MC, and there are many practical advantages of doing it in the newborn period. Benefits and risks should be explained to parents to facilitate shared decision-making in the newborn period."

Ref: Smith DK, et al. Male circumcision in the United States for the prevention of HIV infection and other adverse health outcomes: report from a CDC consultation. Public Health Rep. 2010 Jan-Feb;125 Suppl 1:72-82.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:44pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

An extreme position that I would expect from American researchers. Much like yourself, it doesn't take much to get them excited about circumcision.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

8:12pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

nobody said: "The fact that you think there are ways to "fix" these problems is irrelevant."

Joe said: Actually no it isn't. If there are less invasive, more effective, ways to address a problem then that is very relevant.

You're addressing a different issue.

I'm trying to explain to you why I think circumcision is like a vaccination. It seems you want to ignore that and talk about something else.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

7:29pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Joe, no I didn't miss it but I think you did. Jake already sent the links to the organizations that

acknowledge the benefits
and now he's pointing you to them again.

And why do you think American researchers would take such "an extreme position?"

If the RACP and RDMA turn out to be wrong they can just say that they didn't see the health benefits.

If the researchers who say there are health benefits to circumcision are wrong
and they made up data or whatever else you think they might have done wrong intentionally,
then there will be a price to pay. It is unlikely they will get more funding for research.

Do you really think so many people would risk their reputations?

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:48pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, no I didn't miss it but I think you did. Jake already sent the links to the organizations that acknowledge the benefits and now he's pointing you to them again."

How could I have missed them, I presented them.

nobody said: "and why do you think American researchers would take such "an extreme position?""

Cultural indoctrination.

nobody said: "If the RACP and RDMA turn out to be wrong they can just say that they didn't see the health benefits."

They aren't wrong, there is no indication that they are wrong.

nobody said: "If the researchers who say there are health benefits to circumcision are wrong and they made up data or whatever else you think they might have done wrong intentionally, then there will be a price to pay. It is unlikely they will get more funding for research."

I doubt they 'made up' data. Misinterpreted it yes, but made up? Probably not, they do have a poor record on ethics in this case though.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:41am on Monday, May 16, 2011

"If the RACP and RDMA turn out to be wrong they can just say that they didn't see the health benefits." -- Actually, Nobody, the RACP policy statement isn't at all bad. Their recent statement is much more balanced than their earlier (2004) policy, and they do acknowledge many of the health benefits (as do most other medical associations). Furthermore, in the most recent statement, they recognise the legitimacy of parental choice.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:07am on Monday, May 16, 2011

"I doubt they 'made up' data. Misinterpreted it yes, but made up?
Probably not, they do have a poor record on ethics in this case though."

Misinterpreted? What evidence do you have for that?

Could it be that your preconceived beliefs won't allow to accept the researchers' results?

"Poor record on ethics?" What do you mean?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

11:21am on Monday, May 16, 2011

nobody said: Misinterpreted? What evidence do you have for that? Could it be that your preconceived beliefs won't allow to accept the researchers' results?

Nope. One can accept the results and know that they don't apply outside of specific contexts.

Much like the Dutch do in their statement: "Insofar as there are medical benefits, such as a possibly

reduced risk of HIV infection, it is reasonable to put off circumcision until the age at which such a risk is

relevant and the boy himself can decide about the intervention, or can opt for any available alternatives."

Most people given the choice would probably, if properly informed, in a low prevalence area,

understand that their risk is already very small and that circumcision will only modify that risk to a small degree. You on the other hand might think that your habit of barebacking third world prostitutes puts you at greater risk and perhaps you would benefit so you take that same information and make your own decision. The risk is subjective to each individual, the benefit will also be subjective.

nobody said: ""Poor record on ethics?" What do you mean?" Not performing good ethical analysis, not conforming to the standard ethical practices in medicine, not discussing more effective, less invasive, alternatives adequately. Those are a few that pop to mind.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

11:43am on Monday, May 16, 2011

Joe, unfortunately, you ignore the other health benefits of circumcision at birth.

Maybe the Dutch should look to the organizations in the US for guidance.

As to the ethics problems you mentioned, do you have any evidence to support your claims?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:12pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, unfortunately, you ignore the other health benefits of circumcision at birth.

Maybe the Dutch should look to the organizations in the US for guidance."

Really? Such as what?

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

4:29pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

I said: ""Maybe the Dutch should look to the organizations in the US for guidance."

Joe said: Really? Such as what?

I say: The ones who acknowledge the health benefits of MC and realize that it's a decision for parents to make.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:35pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

Nobody, try reading a bit before you reply. You said, "unfortunately, you ignore the other health benefits of circumcision at birth" to which I replied, "Really? Such as what?" So tell me what benefit do you believe

exceed the risk and harms, for which circumcision is the only reasonable way to obtain these benefits, and is necessary to the well-being of the child?

As far as the Dutch go, their document is the most reasonable one I've seen to date.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

5:00pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

Hi Joe, not sure what I missed that makes you think I should have read before replying.

Must I keep refreshing your memory about the organizations that acknowledge there are health benefits for life

being circumcised at birth? Jake has done that too. I'm shocked, just shocked, that you ignore that. ;-)

Of course you like the Dutch document because it reinforces what you already believe...

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:12pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

nobody said: "what I missed that makes you think I should have read before replying. Must I keep refreshing your memory about the organizations that acknowledge there are health benefits for life being circumcised at birth? Jake has done that too. I'm shocked, just shocked, that you

ignore that. ;-) Of course you like the Dutch document because it reinforces what you already believe..."

You missed the opportunity yet again. What's with you man? Let's try again. Tell me what benefit do you believe exceed the risk and harms, for which circumcision is the only reasonable way to obtain these benefits, and is necessary to the well-being of the child?

I like the Dutch statement because it's the most rational, the most ethical. It treats circumcision like any other medical procedure, the same hurdles to overcome in application. The Australians do OK, they slip up at the end but one could expect that from a culture where it used to be common.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:26pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

Yes, Joe, once again anybody who disagrees with you has slipped up, like the Australians.

I didn't miss an opportunity. I'm tired of restating the health benefits of circumcision.

Go look them up if you don't know.

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:34pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

nobody said: "Yes, Joe, once again anybody who disagrees with you has slipped up, like the Australians.

I didn't miss an opportunity. "

They only slipped up a little bit on the ethics. They do document the vanishingly small subjective benefits well though.

nobody said: "I'm tired of restating the health benefits of circumcision. Go look them up if you don't know."

I did look them up and I found: RACP: "the frequency of diseases modifiable by circumcision, the level of protection offered by circumcision and the complication rates of circumcision do not warrant routine infant circumcision."

<http://tinyurl.com/3cw7jju>

or the Royal Dutch Medical Association: "There is no convincing evidence that circumcision is useful or necessary in terms of prevention or hygiene. Partly in the light of the complications which can arise during or after circumcision, circumcision is not justifiable except on medical/therapeutic grounds. Insofar as there are medical benefits, such as a possibly reduced risk of HIV infection, it is reasonable to put off circumcision until the age at which such a risk is relevant and the boy himself can decide about the intervention, or can opt for any available alternatives."

<http://tinyurl.com/3aj7854>

So where do they mess up? Tell me.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

6:07pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

Joe, maybe you should try a little harder and look for publications that don't reinforce what you already believe.

Jake has pointed out the updated RACP policy which you must have missed:

"the RACP policy statement isn't at all bad. Their recent statement is much more balanced than their earlier (2004) policy, and they do acknowledge many of the health benefits (as do most other medical associations). Furthermore, in the most recent statement, they recognise the legitimacy of parental choice."

Did you see this? If so, why must you cling to their earlier statement before all of the recent research?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:21pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

nobody said: "Did you see this? If so, why must you cling to their earlier statement before all of the recent research?"

I did see this and I disagree with Jake's assessment concerning the differences. In any case, the

second half of the sentence tells me you're not reading or comprehending anything I've been posting. The documentation I've provided is not earlier statements. I provided the current statements, but you have your head too far up your a** to know it. If you do manage to pull it out, read and do some critical thinking on your own, perhaps then you can provide me the critical miraculous benefit that justifies an invasive surgical procedure on those who can't provide consent.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:54am on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

It's strange, Joe, that you keep asking Nobody to identify a *single* benefit that, by itself, outweighs the risks of circumcision. I can't help but wonder why you're doing this, as it's not very logical. (It wouldn't make sense to weigh the risk of one type of complication against the sum of the benefits, either.) When weighing pros and cons, it's necessary to weigh the sum of benefits against the sum of risks.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

2:24pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Even when you add all the so-called medical benefits together they do not significantly outweigh the medical risks and harms of cutting off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis. There are effective, non-invasive ways to prevent and/or treat the rare medical problems that male circumcision is supposed to prevent.

You and other advocates of male circumcision have failed to show there is a compelling medical reason to cut off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:13pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Jake said: "It's strange, Joe, that you keep asking Nobody to identify a *single* benefit that, by itself, outweighs the risks of circumcision. I can't help but wonder why you're doing this, as it's not very logical. (It wouldn't make sense to weigh the risk of one type of complication against the sum of the benefits, either.) When weighing pros and cons, it's necessary to weigh the sum of benefits against the sum of risks."

Nobody is welcomed to post whatever benefits he would like to post but each will be scrutinized as to whether the medical benefit must exceed the risk and harms, whether what you suggest (circumcision) would have to be the only reasonable way to obtain these benefits, and that benefit must be necessary to the well-being of the child.

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:22pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Well, if you're going to set such absurd requirements, it seems rather a waste of time to respond. For the rest of us, offering greater benefit than not doing it is a more appropriate standard, I feel.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:28pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, I think it's pretty clear you have never seen a foreskin you didn't like. No evidence, no matter how compelling will convince you that circumcision has its merits and should be left to parents to decide.

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:26pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Jake said: "Well, if you're going to set such absurd requirements, it seems rather a waste of time to respond. For the rest of us, offering greater benefit than not doing it is a more appropriate

standard, I feel."

I am afraid I don't see why you find the requirement absurd. It is necessary to set the bar high, especially in situations of proxy consent, to protect the patient. It's the same standard that is set for any other medical intervention, circumcision should be no different.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:28pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, I think it's pretty clear you have never seen a foreskin you didn't like. No evidence, no matter how compelling will convince you that circumcision has its merits and should be left to parents to decide."

I fear that I don't understand what you mean by this Nobody. I have provided you with the bar you must clear before it could rationally and reasonably be a consideration as a matter of proxy consent. I haven't seen evidence that you can clear that bar though.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

6:00pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, that bar has been crossed and pointed out to you, yet you fail to see it because you dismiss anything that doesn't support what you already believe.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:09pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, that bar has been crossed and pointed out to you, yet you fail to see it because you dismiss anything that doesn't support what you already believe."

I am afraid that I don't see what you mean. If this is the case then tell me what benefit do you believe exceed the risk and harms, for which circumcision is the only reasonable way to obtain

these benefits, and is necessary to the well-being of the child?

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

6:55pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, that's my point -- you never see what anybody means if they disagree with you on the issue of circumcision. How many more times do you have to hear that the benefits of circumcision outweigh the risks? How many different organizations need to say that?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:19pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, that's my point -- you never see what anybody means if they disagree with you on the issue of circumcision. How many more times do you have to hear that the benefits of circumcision outweigh the risks? How many different organizations need to say that?"

But the risk don't out weight the benefits, how many times do you need to hear that? Again, look at the Dutch, Australian, and now the Swedish link. How many others do you need to see before you believe it?

Again:

<http://tinyurl.com/3cw7jju>

<http://tinyurl.com/3aj7854>

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, July 25 (UPI) -- Two out of three doctors surveyed in Sweden said they refuse to circumcise boys because they consider it assault without the child's consent, sources said.

Read more: http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/07/25/Many-Swedish-doctors-oppose-circumcision/UPI-87341248545759/#ixzz1MeCqDybV

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

7:48pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, tried to follow the links but they didn't work for me. Are they still good? Glad to look...

Like I've said, I have no doubt you will find people who will support your beliefs. Are they right?

One has to look at the evidence to decide.

What I think would be good is to put all the information available in one place.

The pro-circ people like myself and the anti-circ people like you or if it pleases you more to say the pro-foreskin people like you and the anti-foreskin people like me should put up a pro/conf list of what we know. Then we can argue about what's valid and what's not. I'm not sure we'll get much farther but perhaps we can take the emotion out of it.

And maybe we might agree on some things?

Nah, what am I, crazy? ;-)

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

9:15pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

The links all work fine.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:56am on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

"It is necessary to set the bar high, especially in situations of proxy consent, to protect the patient. It's the same standard that is set for any other medical intervention, circumcision should be no different." -- there's only a need to protect the patient from harm. Since circumcision is not a net harm, however, that doesn't apply.

"But the risk don't out weight the benefits, how many times do you need to hear that? Again, look

at the Dutch, Australian, and now the Swedish link." -- as I've pointed out to you before, the Australasian statement doesn't make that claim. Nor, I see, does the article about Sweden.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:59pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Jake said: "Since circumcision is not a net harm, however, that doesn't apply."

Unfortunately, the lack of objective need in routine circumcision means that whether there is a net benefit or harm can only be determined by the individual. You believe there was a net benefit in your circumcision, other believe there was a net harm. So standard medical ethics need to apply.

Jake said: "as I've pointed out to you before, the Australasian statement doesn't make that claim. Nor, I see, does the article about Sweden."

I disagree. As far as I am concerned the lack of need for routine circumcision indicates that they don't believe the benefits outweigh the harms. And while you're right the Swedish don't go into it too much but it's isn't too difficult to figure out their opinion when they say, "They refuse to circumcise boys because they consider it assault without the child's consent, sources said."

If they didn't believe it was more harmful than beneficial, why do you believe they called it assault? Did you plan to try and redefine assault too Jake?

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

5:28pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

"Unfortunately, the lack of objective need in routine circumcision means that whether there is a net benefit or harm can only be determined by the individual" -- that doesn't follow.

"As far as I am concerned the lack of need for routine circumcision indicates that they don't believe the benefits outweigh the harms." -- you're conflating benefit and need. They're separate questions.

"If they didn't believe it was more harmful than beneficial, why do you believe they called it assault?" -- probably because they felt it met the legal definition (and not being familiar with Swedish law I don't know what that is, but it doesn't necessarily imply net harm).

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:50pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Jake said: "that doesn't follow" I don't see how.

Jake said: ""If they didn't believe it was more harmful then beneficial, why do you believe the called it assault?" -- probably because they felt it met the legal definition (and not being familiar with Swedish law I don't know what that is, but it doesn't necessarily imply net harm)."

Since an assault is, in general, "a crime of violence against another person", it's difficult to envision an assault not being understood as being a net harm. But I have faith Jake, that you can twist out some convoluted idea how that might be.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:37am on Thursday, May 19, 2011

"Since an assault is, in general, "a crime of violence against another person", it's difficult to envision an assault not being understood as being a net harm." -- I don't know about Sweden specifically, but in many jurisdictions surgery with improper consent is considered to be an "assault". That's true even if the intent and result is to improve the patient's well-being.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:31pm on Thursday, May 19, 2011

At least we know that a majority of physicians in Sweden have a good sense of the ethics, don't we. You see, if more would follow their lead, the world would be a better place. Don't you think?

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:26 am on Friday, May 20, 2011

I'm inclined to disagree, sorry. It seems rather legalistic to me.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:45pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Jake said to Joe: Interestingly, while discussing parental choice, the part you've omitted is actually that which explicitly discusses that: "However it is reasonable for parents to weigh the benefits and risks of circumcision and to make the decision whether or not to circumcise their sons."

Jake, I'm sure it was just an oversight that Joe left that out... Come on, give him a break. ;-)

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:53pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

"This is not unfettered, there are limits. Should a parent be allowed to tattoo their child?"

If there is a good reason to do it and the health benefits outweigh the risks, then yes.

"I can't make a comment on such a wild hypothetical. If you wanted to put it more in context with the "benefits" of circumcision, you might reduce that to a week."

Yeah, you're intentionally missing the point. If there are enough health benefits to circumcision, then parents should be making that decision. I used the 20 year life expectancy extension only as an example to get you to acknowledge that there might be good reasons to circumcise because of the benefits later.

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:23pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

nobody said: "If there is a good reason to do it and the health benefits out weighed the risks, then yes."

This burden has not been made yet.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

7:54pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Joe, still not good enough for you? CDC: "Medical benefits outweigh risks for infant MC..."

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

8:17pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

No. I don't believe they make a rational case; they should consult with the Dutch or Australians.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

8:01pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Stan said: "Or you could call me a "toe-lover" or an "era lobe-lover" because I think cutting off a child's toes or ear lobes for cultural reasons is crazy."

Um, cutting off a nose, means you can't smell. Cutting off a toe makes it difficult to walk.

Cutting off foreskin has many documented health benefits. Cutting off a nose or a toe doesn't.

Do you see the difference?

[Log in to reply](#)

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

9:05pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

You have an irrational cultural bias against a normal intact penis, so it is not surprising you think there a benefits for cutting part of it off. People who have a cultural bias against a normal intact vulva feel the same way about cutting the genitals of girls.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

10:10am on Monday, May 16, 2011

"Irrational cultural bias?" I'm just looking at all the evidence available and concluding that circumcision is the way to go. What's irrational is clinging to beliefs when there's plenty of evidence showing those beliefs are wrong.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

11:40am on Monday, May 16, 2011

The cultural belief that a normal, intact foreskin is "a piece of unnecessary skin" or "God's mistake" is irrational.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

12:44pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

Stan said: 'The cultural belief that a normal, intact foreskin is "a piece of unnecessary skin" or "God's mistake" is irrational.'

What makes you think it's a cultural belief?

Foreskin is clearly unnecessary. People do just fine without it. In fact, people do better without it. What's irrational about that?

I said: 'Foreskin is God's mistake which is probably why he wanted it removed. ;-)'

It was meant to be funny. Guess you didn't think so. Belief in God is irrational...

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

8:29am on Monday, May 16, 2011

Jake said: "Actually, Nobody, the RACP policy statement isn't at all bad. Their recent statement is much more balanced than their earlier (2004) policy, and they do acknowledge many of the health benefits (as do most other medical associations). Furthermore, in the most recent statement, they recognise the legitimacy of parental choice."

Interesting that the anti-circ people seem to have missed that.

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

9:12am on Monday, May 16, 2011

Remarkable, isn't it? :-)

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

4:09pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

Joe, most certainly you should go public and "expose" the researchers. I assume you have plenty of evidence to support you allegations.

"Poor record on ethics?" What do you mean?" Not performing good ethical analysis, not conforming to the standard ethical practices in medicine, not discussing more effective, less invasive, alternatives adequately. Those are a few that pop to mind.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

7:04pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

Well Joe, I guess you have spoken and we all have no choice but to agree...

you said: I did see this and I disagree with Jake's assessment concerning the differences.

It's not about Jake's assessment concerning the differences but your reluctance to accept anything which disagrees

with what you already believe. No research, no matter how conclusive would convince you.

Please tell me what it would take to change your mind.

Here's your message to me for context:

In any case, the second half of the sentence tells me you're not reading or comprehending anything I've been posting. The documentation I've provided is not earlier statements. I provided the current statements, but you have your head too far up your a** to know it. If you do manage to pull it out, read and do some critical thinking on your own, perhaps then you can provide me the critical miraculous benefit that justifies an invasive surgical procedure on those who can't provide consent.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:16pm on Monday, May 16, 2011

nobody said: "I guess you have spoken and we all have no choice but to agree" I never said you had to agree. You're welcomed to cut off whatever part of your body you'd like; I am not going to stop you any more than I would stop you from getting a tongue or a Prince Albert. I am just saying that to deny the same rights and dignity you had to another without more than just some subjective reason is wrong.

nobody said: "It's not about Jake's assessment concerning the differences but your reluctance to accept anything which disagrees with what you already believe. No research, no matter how conclusive would convince you. Please tell me what it would take to change your mind."

I've already provided this information but since you seem to have reading comprehension problems, I'll try again. The medical benefit must exceed the risk and harms, what you suggest (circumcision) would have to be the only reasonable way to obtain these benefits, and that

benefit must be necessary to the well-being of the child.

So which benefit would you suggest fulfills that criteria?

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

8:37am on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, you seem to have retention problems or could it be that you choose to ignore that which disagrees with your beliefs?

It's seems you've run out of constructive things to support your arguments.

No surprising. The evidence is against you and you can do nothing more than to repeat what's already been refuted.

Log in to reply

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:29pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, you seem to have retention problems or could it be that you choose to ignore that which disagrees with your beliefs?"

I am not sure I understand what leads you to believe that. I don't ignore anything; in fact, I carefully scrutinize all the information presented to me and apply that information rationally and most importantly ethically to the question.

nobody said: "It's seems you've run out of constructive things to support your arguments. No surprising. The evidence is against you and you can do nothing more than to repeat what's already been refuted."

Well, quite frankly you have provided any additional information of substance. I don't see how the 'evidence' is against me, I have essentially the same opinion as the Australians, the Dutch, and other <http://tinyurl.com/mk39bk> to name a few.

"STOCKHOLM, Sweden, July 25 (UPI) -- Two out of three doctors surveyed in Sweden said they refuse to circumcise boys because they consider it assault without the child's consent, sources said."

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

4:50pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

"I have essentially the same opinion as the Australians" -- so you now agree that "it is reasonable for parents to weigh the benefits and risks of circumcision and to make the decision whether or not to circumcise their sons"?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:20pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Jake asked: " so you now agree that "it is reasonable for parents to weigh the benefits and risks of circumcision and to make the decision whether or not to circumcise their sons"?"

No, I don't. That's why I said *essentially*. I find that statement illogically follows from the previous one and is probably there primarily to appease parents who's goal is to satisfy the sky fairy, or some other silly reason. The Dutch and the Sweds are certainly closer.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

5:23pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, what a shame that the Australians didn't come up with the statement you would have liked.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:47pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, what a shame that the Australians didn't come up with the statement you would have liked."

Don't get me wrong they did a reasonable job it's just they sort of fumbled at the end with a

conclusion that can't be derived from the discussion.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:57am on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

On the contrary, the conclusion follows perfectly.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

7:21pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

nobody said: "The fact that you think there are ways to "fix" these problems is irrelevant."

Joe said: Actually no it isn't. If there are less invasive, more effective, ways to address a problem then that is very relevant.

Actually it is irrelevant. You've missed the point. I was explaining to you why I see circumcision similar to a vaccine.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:49pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

"Actually it is irrelevant. You've missed the point. I was explaining to you why I see circumcision similar to a vaccine."

I don't see how. For one thing, vaccines are the most efficient, least invasive, way to achieve the 'benefit', circumcision rarely is this makes the issue relevant.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

8:16pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

And I was replying why I believe you're mistaken.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

8:51am on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Here's a good video with a balanced view. Watch the whole thing before you draw any conclusions.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xX5qnq5HDM&feature=feedu>

Log in to reply

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

2:33pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Circumcision Myths & Facts <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wlew1NFQSE>

Confessions of a Circumcised American Dad <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1ZECchLIHo>

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

4:30pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

While your video is interesting, it's not very compelling I am afraid.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

3:07pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Stan, such anti-circ propaganda. It's just his opinion. I could say the exact opposite and get angry with my parents for not circumcising me at birth. I think his oldest son will be thanking him for circumcising him at birth.

You gotta love the fact that the anti-circ people claim that 70% of new borns were uncircumcised in 2009.

The CDC itself says that the study wasn't even about circumcision rates. But the anti-circ people never let the facts get in the way. Pick and choose what you like, and you'll come up "proving" what you already believed.

I disagree with you in that I think there are plenty of health benefits to circumcision at birth and that's the best time to do it.

Did you watch the youtube video I mentioned? What do you think about what he says.

It's really sad that the anti-circ people have to resort to putting out mis-information to get what they want.

[Log in to reply](#)

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:25pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Here's a site that shows the circumcision rate by state for most states.

<http://www.mgmbill.org/statistics.htm>

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:29pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Anyone who says Christians practice male circumcision for religious reasons doesn't have their facts straight. The Book of Acts chapter 15 in the New Testament says very clearly that male circumcision is not a Christian practice.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:31pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Stan, more data from the anti-circers. From what I've seen I doubt I can trust them to report correctly.

So which is it, the CDC number of 30% or the data you linked us to which says 56%?

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:41pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

nobody said: "Stan, such anti-circ propaganda. It's just his opinion. I could say the exact opposite and get angry with my parents for not circumcising me at birth. I think his oldest son will be thanking him for circumcising him at birth."

The difference is that you were able to do something practical about it, he's essentially stuck.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:44pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, the problem is that even when someone presents information to you that shows you're flat out wrong, it doesn't change what you continue to say. (Go back and look if can't remember ever being wrong.)

I have no doubt you can find people who support your view.

As the author of the video said, he wasn't trying to change anybody's mind.

What the video points out is what you do -- pick and choose the data that supports what you believe and ignore the rest.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:19am on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Joe said: "Because you tried to equate circumcision with vaccination, if that's the case then it should perform with the efficiency and completeness of a vaccination. So again name a disease that circumcision has made extinct, could make

extinct, or at least practically extinct."

A vaccination doesn't have to do what you claim to be worthwhile. The flu vaccination doesn't even eliminate the strains its targeted for.

Circumcision is similar to a vaccination because it reduces the risk of infections such as HIV, HPV and pretty much eliminates the risk of cancer of the penis. It eliminates the possibility of phimosis. It reduces the risk of balanitis.

Those benefits sound pretty good to me. If there were a vaccination that did that I doubt people would be against it.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:37pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Nobody said: "A vaccination doesn't have to do what you claim to be worthwhile. The flu vaccination doesn't even eliminate the strains its targeted for. "

The flu vaccine is probably not a good example because it's constantly mutating and the effectiveness depends on how well matched the vaccine is to the strains circulating. How about we talk about Small Pox, Measles, or Polio to get an idea of the efficiency of vaccination.

nobody said: "Circumcision is similar to a vaccination because it reduces the risk of infections such as HIV."

By a vanishingly small amount and only by a single vector. As a heterosexual non-IV drug using male, living in a country of low prevalence, I consider my risk of HIV to be extremely low and don't believe it's worth cutting off part of my cock to adjust my risk a few tenths or hundredths of a percent lower.

nobody said: ", HPV and pretty much eliminates the risk of cancer of the penis. "

Since we have a vaccine for HPV that is in excess of 90% efficient I don't see why we should cut off parts of our cocks for what would also be small additional protection.

nobody said: "It eliminates the possibility of phimosis. It reduces the risk of balanitis. Those benefits sound pretty good to me."

Not to me. Either of those problems can be resolved with less invasive treatments But if that's

what you want then great, just allow everyone else the dignity of making their own decision. It's not hard, and it's ethical.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

5:52pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Joe, "by a vanishingly small amount"? I'm curious what country you live in with low prevalence. So I see you're okay with the HPV vaccine which is 90% effective (I'll take your word for it for now) but circumcision as a "vaccine" effective 60% you don't accept that.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

5:56pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Joe, I forgot to say when I said "It [circumcision] eliminates the possibility of phimosis. It reduces the risk of balanitis"
I was explaining to you why circumcision is like a vaccination. The fact that you think there are ways to "fix" these problems is irrelevant. Circumcision is like a vaccination which prevents them or reduces the risk.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:25pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

nobody said: "I'm curious what country you live in with low prevalence. "
It is immaterial but I live in the US. The calculation would be the same for any other first world country many of which have lower HIV prevalence than the US does.
nobody said: "So I see you're okay with the HPV vaccine which is 90% effective (I'll take your word for it for now) but circumcision as a "vaccine" effective 60% you don't accept that."

That is for a single (not even the dominant) vector of transmission where as the HPV vaccine protects from *any* method of transmission. Vaccination is far more effective, far less invasive, and safer.

nobody said: "The fact that you think there are ways to "fix" these problems is irrelevant."

Actually no it isn't. If there are less invasive, more effective, ways to address a problem then that is very relevant.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

7:19pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Joe, the only reason I asked where you live is because I suspected US. So which is it? Does the US have one of the highest HIV rates in the world or is there low prevalence? You guys seem to state whichever suits your current argument.

I will agree with you that the prevalence of HIV in the heterosexual population is low in the US compared to the homosexual population and IV drug users.

I will bet the reason it's so low in the heterosexual population is because of the high rate of MC. I've said that before and it matches the research studies showing the reduced risk of HIV in circumcised men.

I will look around for you to see if I can find any research to support what I think.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:35pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Nobody said: "Joe, the only reason I asked where you live is because I suspected US. So which is it?"

Does the US have one of the highest HIV rates in the world or is there low prevalence? You guys seem to state whichever suits your current argument."

It has one of the highest rates in the first world. Here are the estimated prevalence numbers: <http://tinyurl.com/34tb4n> The US is #63 and has an estimated adult prevalence of 0.6

You misquoted the argument; it's low but relatively high amongst countries of similar development.

nobody said: "I will bet the reason it's so low in the heterosexual population is because of the high rate of MC."

I disagree. Here is an example of what the Australian's had to say about the issue:

<http://tinyurl.com/m2d3kb>

"An Australian-born man is estimated to have a 0.02% (0.0002) risk of HIV acquisition if he does not inject drugs or have sex with men. This very low risk means that the population health benefit of an intervention like generalised circumcision programs would be negligible."

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

4:51pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, as I've said many times before, I wish my parents had decided to circumcise me at birth. It's not a choice I wanted. If I could have been given a choice about other things, it would have been about religion and the school I got sent to. Have you forgotten that I said this?

Let me ask you something: there's supposedly something that will regrow cells back, whatever type they may be.

If this actually works to grow back foreskin would you still be against infant circumcision?

That could be the best of both worlds. Circumcision at birth would give a person all the health benefits but if

for some reason that person thought they were missing something important, they could get it back.

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:38pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, as I've said many times before, I wish my parents had decided to circumcise

me at birth.

It's not a choice I wanted. If I could have been given a choice about other things, it would have been about religion and the school I got sent to. Have you forgotten that I said this?"

No I haven't but there are plenty of men who feel they were wronged when they were circumcised. There is little they can practically do about it however, those like yourself can do something about it. So given the option, it's better to go with the option that doesn't limit the individuals freedom of action in the future. BTW, you're the first person I've ever met who wished his options were more limited; most people want greater choice but I guess a few like to be restricted. Further, you can choose your religion. Unless you're still under your parent's thumb.

nobody said: "Let me ask you something: there's supposedly something that will regrow cells back, whatever type they may be. If this actually works to grow back foreskin would you still be against infant circumcision?"

Probably. It's difficult to speculate.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

6:08pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, no I don't want my options limited. I want good choices made by my parents just like they did for vaccinations. I wished they had sent me to the public school instead of the Catholic one. No difference in price.

Their decision. If they had asked me, I would have gone to the public school. But I had no choice.

And that has had a major (negative) impact on my life.

Yes I can choose my religion (or none) now but I wish it were there easy. Catholic indoctrination is not easy to get rid of.

Okay, on the foreskin cell restoration. Perhaps we've finally reached some common ground!!! I'll see if I can find out more. Maybe we can have it both ways. ;-)

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:53pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, no I don't want my options limited. "

Well, that's what happens when you're circumcised; you can't go back you know.

nobody said: "I want good choices made by my parents just like they did for vaccinations. "

Don't compare circumcision and vaccination, they're not the same thing. Not even close.

nobody said: "I wished they had sent me to the public school instead of the Catholic one. No difference in price.

Their decision. If they had asked me, I would have gone to the public school. But I had no choice. And that has had a major (negative) impact on my life."

You really only have one shot at choosing a school. It's not something you can really hold off until you're old enough.

nobody said: "Yes I can choose my religion (or none) now but I wish it were there easy. Catholic indoctrination is not easy to get rid of."

I didn't find it too difficult.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

7:04pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, it seems you can "go back" even now with "restoration". I'm sure you've heard of very happy guys

who have done that, haven't you?

Circumcision is similar to a vaccination even though you keep saying it's not even close.

And I've already told you why.

Huh, about the school? Who had the choice? Oh, it was my parents, not me. That's my point.

Just like circumcising or not.

As far as getting rid of Catholic indoctrination, my hat's off to you for getting over it.

I'm still working on that decades later.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:25pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, it seems you can "go back" even now with "restoration". I'm sure you've heard of very happy guys who have done that, haven't you?"

I've met plenty and even people who develop the techniques. They are generally very happy with their results but very pissed off with their parents for circumcising them for no reason in the first place. Restoration takes many years and you don't get it all back, circumcision can be done as perhaps a 1 hour or less out patient procedure. So it's more reasonable to let adults choose circumcision if they want.

nobody said: "Circumcision is similar to a vaccination even though you keep saying it's not even close."

Fine, name a disease that circumcision by itself is or will be credited for making extinct that we can't protect against or treat with less invasive means.

nobody said: "Huh, about the school? Who had the choice? Oh, it was my parents, not me. That's my point.

Just like circumcising or not."

There is a time restraint on picking a school, you can get circumcised at any time; that is part of the difference.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

7:59pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, there are those of us "pissed" for not being circumcised at birth. And no it's not the same doing it later.

While it's possible to find a plastic surgeon who can do a good job, circumcision as an adult is not as good as when done as an infant.

These days parents don't circumcise for now reason. They look at the evidence and hopefully not just from your side.

Must we go over the health benefits again? Why should any procedure be required to make a disease extinct?

In my view, it only has to have benefits that outweigh the risks. And infant circumcision does that with flying colors. Does anything stick when you've been proven wrong? Do you really think that if you say the same incorrect things over and over, they'll become correct?

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:14pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

nobody said: "Joe, there are those of us "pissed" for not being circumcised at birth. And no it's not the same doing it later. "

But it's something you can fix in an hour as opposed to years.

nobody said: "While it's possible to find a plastic surgeon who can do a good job, circumcision as an adult is not as good as when done as an infant."

This is a matter of opinion.

nobody said: "Must we go over the health benefits again? Why should any procedure be required to make a disease extinct? "

Because you tried to equate circumcision with vaccination, if that's the case then it should perform with the efficiency and completeness of a vaccination. So again name a disease that circumcision has made extinct, could make extinct, or at least practically extinct.

nobody said: "In my view, it only has to have benefits that outweigh the risks. And infant circumcision does that with flying colors. Does anything stick when you've been proven wrong? Do you really think that if you say the same incorrect things over and over, they'll become correct?"

It doesn't and I haven't been proven wrong. You haven't presented a single rational reason to circumcise a child; only parent's subjective reasons.

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:02am on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

[Nobody pointed out: "While it's possible to find a plastic surgeon who can do a good job, circumcision as an adult is not as good as when done as an infant."] "This is a matter of opinion." -- not really, no. The healing ability of infants is well-known, and added to this is the fact that, unlike adults, infants don't require sutures.

"Because you tried to equate circumcision with vaccination, if that's the case then it should perform with the efficiency and completeness of a vaccination." -- that's not entirely rational. Circumcision and vaccination *do* have some similarities (both reducing the risk of disease), but that doesn't mean that they're identical.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:10pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Jake said: "not really, no. The healing ability of infants is well-known, and added to this is the fact that, unlike adults, infants don't require sutures."

Just because something heals quickly doesn't mean it heals right or was even done "well". Case in point: <http://tinyurl.com/3ult6zr> The need, or lack thereof, for sutures is irrelevant. I wonder how many kids end up with more damage to their penis than is expected from a circumcision. At least as an adult you can have an active role in all manner of the process from selecting the surgeon to even sculpting to your own aesthetic preference. The latter I suspect must surely be a bonus for someone such as yourself.

Jake said: " that's not entirely rational. Circumcision and vaccination *do* have some similarities (both reducing the risk of disease), but that doesn't mean that they're identical."

I agree, comparing circumcision to vaccination *isn't* rational at all; yet here we are.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

5:30pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

"Case in point: <http://tinyurl.com/3ult6zr>"; -- complications, more or less by definition, occur rarely.

"The need, or lack thereof, for sutures is irrelevant." -- no, as it affects the outcome.

"I agree, comparing circumcision to vaccination *isn't* rational at all; yet here we are." -- have we got to the stage where you're deliberately misrepresenting what I've said?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:02pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Jake said: "- complications, more or less by definition, occur rarely."

This Pediatric Urologist doesn't seem to think so. About 500 or so botches of varying degrees handled by this one guy per year and then of course there are those who never get seen.

Doesn't seem like a net benefit to me Jake.

Jake said: "no, as it affects the outcome." If it's what you wanted, you weigh that as part of your decision, both to have it done and the skill of the doctor.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

6:13pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

"This Pediatric Urologist doesn't seem to think so. About 500 or so botches of varying degrees handled by this one guy per year" -- pediatric urologists see a lot of boys with penile problems. It doesn't mean that the complication rate is high.

"Doesn't seem like a net benefit to me Jake." -- on the basis of what data? Even if you had evidence of a complication rate (which you haven't), that's only half of the information you need to evaluate whether there's a net benefit.

"If it's what you wanted, you weigh that as part of your decision, both to have it done and the skill of the doctor." -- it's difficult to see whether you're agreeing or disagreeing...

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

6:32pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Jake said: "pediatric urologists see a lot of boys with penile problems. It doesn't mean that the

complication rate is high."

Interesting, he didn't seem to be speaking as if he believed it was a rare, isolated issue. Of course, we also don't know the number seen by others or even those who never get seen. I guess they just drew the short straw didn't they.

Jake said: " it's difficult to see whether you're agreeing or disagreeing..." I am disagreeing; it's not relevant.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:35am on Thursday, May 19, 2011

"Interesting, he didn't seem to be speaking as if he believed it was a rare, isolated issue." -- if you're a specialist who sees people with rare conditions every day, you probably think of them as fairly common, even though you're doubtless aware on an intellectual level that they aren't.

"I am disagreeing; it's not relevant." -- of course it's relevant: it helps to explain why adult circumcisions are generally not as good as infant circumcisions.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:54pm on Thursday, May 19, 2011

Jake said: "if you're a specialist who sees people with rare conditions every day, you probably think of them as fairly common, even though you're doubtless aware on an intellectual level that they aren't."

I disagree. It probably means that you are much more keenly aware of the problems that others create.

Jake said: "of course it's relevant: it helps to explain why adult circumcisions are generally not as good as infant circumcisions." You forgot to preface that sentence with: 'In my opinion ...'.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:39am on Friday, May 20, 2011

No, Joe, I didn't forget. It's not a matter of opinion. Sutures do cause scarring, not in every case, but it's quite likely to occur. I don't feel the need to say "In my opinion gravity at the earth's surface is 9.8m/s/s", either: it's just a fact.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

5:19pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, have you seen this?

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/health/skinny+circumcision/4599446/story.html>

Many people wonder why having a foreskin poses a risk. The basic problem is that the inner layer of the foreskin is a mucous membrane, like the lining of the cheek. It is moist, delicate, tears easily, and harmful germs tend to stick to and/or invade it. It contains a large number of specialized cells (phagocytes) to trap and destroy invading organisms, but in some instances, such as HIV, these cells trap the virus but are unable to destroy it, thus aiding its introduction into the body.

Log in to reply

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

5:43pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Yes, I've read that; it was a pretty poor article overall but I don't expect too much from the two clowns who wrote it. In particular they don't make any compelling case for not letting the individual decide.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

6:10pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Joe, clowns? These are doctors as good as any of the anti-circ ones you will cite.

Log in to reply

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

7:00pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Neil Pollock makes his living cutting off a normal part of the penis of healthy boys.

"It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends upon his not understanding it!" ~ Upton Sinclair

Edgar Schoen writes poetry about male genital cutting.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

7:09pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

I don't know Neil Pollock. Can you provide me a link? I've never heard of any doctor who "makes a living" doing circumcisions.

"Edgar Schoen writes poetry about male genital cutting."

And so? If you wrote some poetry about the beauty of foreskin should that be held against you?

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

7:15pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

I think I found him: http://www.moheltraining.com/about_drpollock.html

From a quick look, you are right -- he makes his living doing circumcisions!

And he's figured out how to do it well:

"The technique has evolved to now being almost consistently a painless, bloodless procedure that's done in 50 seconds," said Dr. Pollock. "It's also safe; the complication rate has been 10 times lower than what's quoted in the literature for circumcision."

Doesn't that at least take away your argument about the pain? Maybe you guys should update your antiquated video of the screaming baby. Don't you think you should be fair and at least be an advocate for painless

circumcisions
if parents choose to circumcise?

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:43pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

I'm not that only one who sees circumcision as similar to an effective vaccination...

http://www.outinjersey.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1140:circumcision-as-hiv-prevention&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=50

Langerhan cells, a specific type of cell, are found in the foreskin, vagina and oral mucosa. These cells enable the HIV virus to enter the body. The cells are found nowhere else on the penis. Removal of the foreskin would ultimately decrease the possibility of infection, as the study showed, upward of 60%, a percentage as high as many conventional oral and injected viral vaccines. With the World Health Organization and UNAIDS, the United Nations' HIV/AIDS agency, both recommending circumcision as "part of a comprehensive HIV prevention package" San Francisco residents need to realize the impact this unconventional "vaccine" can have on the HIV/AIDS epidemic and opt not only to avoid signing the petition, but consider it part of their own preventive plan.

[Log in to reply](#)

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:23pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

I believe there is nothing that would convince Joe that circumcision at birth could be a good thing. It doesn't matter how great the health benefits are. He's simply against circumcision.

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:45pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

nobody said: "I believe there is nothing that would convince Joe that circumcision at birth could be a good thing. It doesn't matter how great the health benefits are. He's simply against circumcision."

This is not correct. I've already provided you the conditions, you just seem to ignore them: the medical benefit must exceed the risk and harms, whether what you suggest (circumcision) would have to be the only reasonable way to obtain these benefits, and that benefit must be necessary to the well-being of the child.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

8:41pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

nobody said: "I believe there is nothing that would convince Joe that circumcision at birth could be a good thing. It doesn't matter how great the health benefits are. He's simply against circumcision."

Joe said: This is not correct. I've already provided you the conditions, you just seem to ignore them: the medical benefit must exceed the risk and harms,"

I haven't ignored your conditions; I think your conditions have been met in a big way.

Joe: whether what you suggest (circumcision) would have to be the only reasonable way to obtain these benefits, and that benefit must be necessary to the well-being of the child.

Why does circumcision have to be the only reasonable way? How about if it happens to be the best way?

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

10:00pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

nobody said: "I haven't ignored your conditions; I think your conditions have been met in a big way."

So you say, but I don't see how you have. For example, you cite HPV yet we have a vaccine. You cite phimosis yet there are less invasive approaches that can be used. You seem to be the

kind of person who would pull a tooth rather than drill and fill it.

nobody said: "Why does circumcision have to be the only reasonable way? How about if it happens to be the best way?" If it was the 'best' that would probably make it the only reasonable way. If it makes you feel better we could say, as the BMA has said, "Unnecessarily invasive procedures should not be used where alternative, less invasive techniques, are equally efficient and available."

And what's wrong with that?

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:27am on Thursday, May 19, 2011

'If it makes you feel better we could say, as the BMA has said, "Unnecessarily invasive procedures should not be used where alternative, less invasive techniques, are equally efficient and available." -- you seem to be developing a knack for quoting passages out of context, Joe. The BMA say this in their section on "Circumcision for medical purposes", and they make it clear that they're talking about circumcision to treat disease later in the same paragraph: "Therefore, to circumcise for therapeutic reasons where medical research has shown other techniques to be at least as effective and less invasive would be unethical and inappropriate."

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

2:55pm on Thursday, May 19, 2011

The British Medical Association divides its policy statement into two sections (1) circumcision for medical reasons and (2) circumcision for cultural or religious reasons. The section on cultural and religious reasons is an attempt to justify male circumcision by Muslim and Jewish parents.

There is NO compelling reason for non-Muslim and non-Jewish parents to allow a doctor to cut off a normal part of their son's penis. The idea that American doctors are cutting the genitals of non-Muslim and non-Jewish boys for so-called cultural reasons is shameful.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:18pm on Thursday, May 19, 2011

And you Jake seem to have a knack for trying to redefine words such as 'scar' or 'assault'. I was simply offering it up as an alternative for the third condition. So let's consider this for a second. Could the statement: "Unnecessarily invasive procedures should not be used where alternative, less invasive techniques, are equally efficient and available." be used to evaluate a 'benefit'? I get the feeling from my sense of your ethics that such techniques need not be considered.

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:25am on Friday, May 20, 2011

"Could the statement: "Unnecessarily invasive procedures should not be used where alternative, less invasive techniques, are equally efficient and available." be used to evaluate a 'benefit'?" -- yes, if circumcision were proposed for the sole purpose of achieving that benefit. That is to say, if the objective of circumcision is therapeutic, it makes sense to consider all means of treating the relevant condition and choose the most appropriate. This is also true, to some extent, of prophylaxis, though the situation is more complicated because circumcision can usually be combined with other methods of prophylaxis, so it rarely makes sense to treat the methods as mutually exclusive.

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

2:38pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

The main objective of circumcision advocates is to justify cutting the genitals of children. It is important to remember that there is NO compelling medical reason to cut off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis.

NurseLisa

Flag as inappropriate

8:10pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Nobody: "Um, cutting off a nose, means you can't smell. Cutting off a toe makes it difficult to walk. Cutting off foreskin has many documented health benefits. Cutting off a nose or a toe doesn't."

Smelling is done by the olfactory organ, which is located along the cribriform plate of the cranium. Cutting of someone's nose does not remove this organ. So, noseless people are perfectly able to smell. A considerable number of people have lost a toe and manage to walk just fine, although one can assume some sort of walking deficit. Precuectomy results in the loss of function that organ provides, i.e. sensation, protection of the glans penis, eliminate HIV by langerin of the Langerhans cells, positive feedback for erection by the ridged band, etc.

Cutting off the nose though eliminates vestibulitis and many other diseases associated with the nose. Removal of a toe eliminates fracture of the bone in that toe, ingrown toenail, etc. So, nobody is wrong in that cutting off a nose and toe does not have health benefits.

From the discussion above it is clear that nobody and Jake have no medical background and lack basic understanding of anatomy and physiology. In addition they have a warped sense of medical ethics. They do have a compulsion for the amputation of a normal body part, which may be sexually motivated, aka apotemnophilia. It seems as if they are trying to normalize this disorder here in this forum.

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

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2:30am on Thursday, May 19, 2011

"Precuectomy results in the loss of function that organ provides, i.e. sensation, protection of the glans penis, eliminate HIV by langerin of the Langerhans cells, positive feedback for erection by the ridged band, etc. " -- You appear to be unfamiliar with recent (or even not-so-recent) research, NurseLisa. Studies have shown that removal of the foreskin does not result in loss of sensation; that conditions against which such "protection" might serve, such as balanitis, are actually more likely in uncircumcised males; that HIV risk is greater in uncircumcised males; and that erectile difficulties are unaffected by circumcision.

Stan Barnes

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4:27pm on Thursday, May 19, 2011

When you cut off a part of someone's body that has nerves, they will never feel the sensations from that part of their body again.

nobody

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:51pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Joe: apotemnophilia

You are off the deep end! I have no desire to cut off a perfectly healthy limb.

From what I've read of the research and my own personal experience, there is no benefit to having foreskin.

You are unwilling to accept any research that contradicts what you already believe.

If anyone has a disorder it's you. It seems you have an obsession for foreskin which simply won't let you realize you might just be wrong.

[Log in to reply](#)

Joe

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:49pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Nobody, it's clear that you haven't been reading or paying any attention to anything that has been written. This also calls into question your competence when reading and evaluating information on your favorite topic. The post which accused you of apotemnophilia was written by a *** different *** poster.

Nobody said: "You are unwilling to accept any research that contradicts what you already believe."

This is incorrect, you just haven't presented anything I haven't seen and considered.

In any case, I don't see how protecting the rights of individuals is a disorder. Just for something new, how about you actually read the posts before you reply.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

9:34am on Thursday, May 19, 2011

Joe, you are right, I need to pay closer attention and respond when I'm not trying to do something else.

I said: "You are unwilling to accept any research that contradicts what you already believe."
you said: "This is incorrect, you just haven't presented anything I haven't seen and considered."
Oh, I'm sure you've considered everything presented to you and then discarded or ignored that which doesn't support what you already believe. That's my point.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:07pm on Thursday, May 19, 2011

nobody said: "Oh, I'm sure you've considered everything presented to you and then discarded or ignored that which doesn't support what you already believe. That's my point."

Not discarded or ignored. Evaluated and considered in the proper context. It seems the real problem here is that my standards are much higher than yours. You are simply more easily impressed with little substance.

nobody

Flag as inappropriate

8:52am on Thursday, May 19, 2011

More data supporting the benefit of circumcising at birth...

In this study 80% of the penile cancer cases are in uncircumcised men.

One 1 case was seen in men circumcised at birth, that's 1/230 (.4%)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21557840>

Log in to reply

Stan Barnes

Flag as inappropriate

4:29pm on Thursday, May 19, 2011

If you cut off a girl's labia, she will never get cancer of the labia.

Joe

Flag as inappropriate

7:36pm on Thursday, May 19, 2011

nobody said: "[More data...]"

You see here is another example of where you're not paying attention we've already discussed this matter. It is believed that HPV is one of the larger risk factors for penile cancer. There is an HPV vaccine which has been available now for *six* years. So why would you suggest that a more invasive procedure be used when a better alternative exists?

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:36am on Friday, May 20, 2011

"It is believed that HPV is one of the larger risk factors for penile cancer" -- that is true, and it's one of several mechanisms by which circumcision is protective.

"There is an HPV vaccine which has been available now for *six* years." -- which is partially effective in males (60-90%; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21288094>), suggesting that combination with circumcision would provide better protection.

"So why would you suggest that a more invasive procedure be used when a better alternative exists?" -- What protection does the vaccine offer against UTIs? Balanitis? Posthitis? Phimosis? HIV? HSV, etc? How does it satisfy religious/social/cultural requirements for circumcision? And, of course, if you seriously want to compare the options, you also need to consider a third: both.

Stan Barnes

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:00pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

Jake continues to ignore the feelings and preferences of the person most affected by male genital cutting, the man himself.

Since there is NO compelling medical reason to cut off a normal part of a healthy boy's penis, the decision should be made by the person most affected by the surgery.

James Johnson

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:15pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

Dear Jakew,

I have some comments and question for you. I hope you will kindly respond to my questions.

First of all, I'd like to talk about my penis. I'm intact, I have a foreskin, and I know a thing or two about how it works. Before you claim that what I'm about to say is merely personal testimony, let it be known that I later confirmed everything I've experienced with scientific research (namely Cold & Taylor, and Sorrells, which are papers I'm sure you—Jake—do not like very much).

When I was about 8 years old, I started masturbating. The way that I did this was to take the tip of my foreskin between my thumb and two fingers, and begin twirling it and lightly caressing it (the wonderful sexually sensation of fine-touch). I would do this until I achieved orgasm. At the time, I was too young to produce any ejaculate, but it felt incredible none-the-less.

Continued in the following response...

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:45am on Saturday, May 21, 2011

"I hope you will kindly respond to my questions." -- I'll certainly try!

"Before you claim that what I'm about to say is merely personal testimony, let it be known that I later confirmed everything I've experienced with scientific research (namely Cold & Taylor, and

Sorrells, which are papers I'm sure you—Jake—do not like very much)." -- well, what you're saying *is* anecdotal, so I wonder why you don't just discuss what these papers claim instead...

James Johnson

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:19pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

PART 2:

I was not aware of circumcision until many years later, nor was I educated about different parts of the penis and their function, I only knew what felt good. I continued to masturbate this way for many years, and I still normally do, as it feels better than all other methods I have tried. A few years ago I spent time researching the functions of the foreskin, when I found out that my personal experience was indeed confirmed with quality scientific research. i.e., the foreskin is THE pleasure zone.

Considering this fact (it is a fact, as it's been scientifically confirmed, which coincides with what I've known of my own), how can you be confident that removing this pleasure zone without consent is morally and ethically acceptable? If it is true that it is healthier to have removed, surely this would have to (ethically) only be considered for those who are of legal age (adults), as removing THE pleasure zone from the human body without consent would be the largest human rights violation imaginable outside of murder. This isn't opinion or hyperbole, its deductive logic and applied ethics, backed up not only with testimony, but testimony that has been scientifically confirmed. So, what kind of post-hoc rationalization and apologetics are you using to argue in favor of this human rights violation exactly?

Continued in the following response...

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:49am on Saturday, May 21, 2011

"A few years ago I spent time researching the functions of the foreskin, when I found out that my personal experience was indeed confirmed with quality scientific research. i.e., the foreskin is THE pleasure zone." -- interestingly, only one scientific paper has actually investigated the sexual responsiveness of the foreskin vs other parts of the penis. That paper (which was

admittedly limited by the small sample of uncircumcised men) found that the foreskin was ranked lowest in terms of its ability to produce sexual pleasure.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19245445>

"Considering this fact (it is a fact, as it's been scientifically confirmed, which coincides with what I've known of my own), how can you be confident that removing this pleasure zone without consent is morally and ethically acceptable?" -- it's not a fact, so the question is moot.

James Johnson

Flag as inappropriate

9:20pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

PART 3:

My second question is about Circlist and the Gilgal Society. These are serious questions, and not an attack on your character, so please oblige me with a professional response.

Do you think it hurts the pro-circumcision cause for so many prominent circumcision proponents to be members and associates of these two groups? Some members and associates include: Bertran Auvert, Robert C. Bailey, Stefan Bailis, Xavier Castellsagué, Mike Cormier, Guy Cox, Ilene Gelbaum, Daniel Halperin, Dawn Harvey, Sam Kunin, Brian J. Morris, Edgar J. Schoen, Roger Short, Howard Stang, Helen Weiss, Robin Willcourt, Thomas E. Wiswell, and others (many others if we're talking about Circlist).

Continued in the following response...

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

2:52am on Saturday, May 21, 2011

"Do you think it hurts the pro-circumcision cause for so many prominent circumcision proponents to be members and associates of these two groups? Some members and associates include: [...]" -- I've no idea whether the people you name are actually members; I suspect that most are not. (I'm not sure what you mean by an "associate".) Even if they were, no, I can't see how it could hurt the "pro-circumcision cause".

James Johnson

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9:21pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

PART 4:

Considering that these two groups publish pornographic circumcision fetish stories ("Circumcision Slut", "Circ Nurse", etc.) both on their websites (not speaking of the group discussions) and in print (speaking of the Gilgal Society run by Circumsexual Vernon Quaintance), it would seem that any prominent circumcision promoter being attached to these groups would discredit them as having a Circumsexual fixation (fetish) for infants (not my word, this word is used by members of Circlist). Some of the stories do fetishize infants. Wouldn't you agree that this WILL be the downfall of the entire pro-circumcision movement? After all, the majority of the most pro-circumcision names are connected to these groups, most of them quite openly. Don't you think it's only a matter of time before legal action is taken? After all, connecting circumsexuals to actual infant circumcision promotion is a direct sexual assault on minors, both factually, and legally.

I'll be kindly awaiting your response to my questions.

Thanks,
James

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

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3:12am on Saturday, May 21, 2011

"Considering that these two groups publish pornographic circumcision fetish stories [...] both on their websites [...]" -- I'm not very familiar with the Gilgal Society, but in the case of Circlist there is a strong division between the group (which no longer exists) and the website; the former having basically no control over the latter. Also, please don't make libellous insinuations about Quaintance.

"it would seem that any prominent circumcision promoter being attached to these groups would discredit them as having a Circumsexual fixation (fetish) for infants" -- not very logical. Holding members of the group responsible for what appears on the website makes as much sense as holding British citizens responsible for the actions of Margaret Thatcher's government. And frankly, only a tiny fraction of what appears on the website could be considered "fetish" material,

and most of what there is, as I recall, involves adults. It doesn't seem rational to draw conclusions about all former members based on a tiny fraction of a website over which they have little influence.

"Don't you think it's only a matter of time before legal action is taken?" -- I can't see on what basis. Even if we suppose, for the sake of argument, that it is proven that proponents of infant circumcision are motivated by some strange kind of fetish, it's certainly distasteful, but I don't think it actually violates any laws.

Joseph4GI

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:55pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

The bottom line is always this:

The foreskin is not a birth defect. Nor is it a congenital deformity or a genetic anomaly akin to a 6th finger or a cleft. The foreskin is normal, healthy tissue found in all males at birth.

Circumcision in healthy boys is the destruction of normal, healthy tissue. It permanently alters the appearance and mechanics of the penis, and it puts a child at risk of infection, disfigurement, complete ablation and even death.

Thanks to research and modern medicine, we now have better, more effective, less-invasive ways to prevent disease, so that circumcision is not needed anymore (actually, it was never needed).

Unless there is a medical or clinical indication, the circumcision of healthy, non-consenting individuals is by very definition infant genital mutilation. Doctors have no business performing it in healthy, non-consenting individuals, much less giving his parents any kind of "choice."

[Log in to reply](#)

Joseph4GI

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:01pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

The "benefits" of circumcision are dubious at best. There is absolutely not one study that can confirm that circumcision prevents anything. The best they can offer is statistical analysis skewed by "researchers" who have been trying very hard to legitimize the practice of routinely circumcising newborns for the longest time. (To be sure, "researchers" have been trying to find an alibi for circumcision for over a century now, but to no avail.)

Circumcision does not, cannot prevent diseases of any kind. No "study" has ever been able to conclusively prove this. The best they do is give unique statistics and a "possible" explanation that cannot be substantiated scientifically.

The "benefits" of circumcision are dubious, and, they can already be achieved without surgery. UTIs, for example, are already quite rare in boys. They are about 10 times more common in girls because of the way the urinary tract is built in them. Yet, UTIs are treated in girls with antibiotics. The same applies to boys. It makes no sense to circumcise a child to prevent rare and treatable conditions.

Even if "studies" were correct, circumcision would only "reduce the risk" of STDs, not eliminate them. Circumcision FAILS as a method to prevent STDs, which is why even the circumcision "researchers" cannot stress condoms enough. Circumcision fails.

[Log in to reply](#)

Joseph4GI

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:08pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

The bottom line is always this:

Without a medical or clinical indication, doctors have absolutely no business performing surgery in healthy, non-consenting individuals, much less be giving parents any kind of a "choice."

This applies to any other surgery that is named. It is standard medical practice to perform surgery only when all other method of treatment has been tried and failed.

It is quackery to be offering circumcision to parents of healthy, non-consenting children, when there is no medical or clinical condition present to warrant surgery, and when the "benefits" of circumcision are already available through other, less invasive means.

Science is always looking for newer, better ways to treat and prevent disease. The goal of medicine is to make itself obsolete.

When you look at all the circumcision "research," one thing becomes clear; it was never about preventing disease, it was always about legitimizing unnecessary surgery.

Circumcision, and circumcision "research" are a blight on modern medicine.

There are better ways to prevent disease.

It is that which "researchers" should be studying.

Research seeks to find the new, not preserve the old.

In light of the fact that there are better, more effective, more ethical ways to prevent disease, circumcision and circumcision "studies" are absolutely useless.

[Log in to reply](#)

Joseph4GI

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:16pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

It is generally well accepted that an "authority" needs to be objective and impartial, and that an audience can only evaluate information from a source if they know about conflicts of interest that may affect the objectivity of the source.

Readers, Jakew may try to appear to be this objective source, but he is not. Before you take anything this guy has to say seriously, please know that he has a long history of circumcision advocacy. He was himself circumcised out of his own volition (no disease, pure desire), and he did so because he had a sexual fixation with the circumcised penis since he was 5 years old. He is on record stating that he finds the act of circumcision sexually gratifying, and that he enjoys the act as well as the "finished product."

Before this post is flagged as a personal attack, it must be made clear that ad-hominem is not the same as pointing out a conflict of interest. Where a source seeks to convince by a claim of authority or by personal observation, identification of conflicts of interest are not ad hominem.

Jakew has a conflict of interest; he had a sexual fixation with circumcision first before he ever cared about all the "benefits."

It would be wise for readers to take what Jakew has to say with a grain of salt, and to look for information regarding circumcision elsewhere, as he would be at odds with presenting complete and accurate information.

For more info on Jakew, google "Jakew" and "circleaks."

[Log in to reply](#)

Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:25am on Saturday, May 21, 2011

"he did so because he had a sexual fixation with the circumcised penis since he was 5 years old. He is on record stating that he finds the act of circumcision sexually gratifying, and that he enjoys the act as well as the "finished product."" -- is it really necessary to lie about me, Joseph?

Joseph4GI

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:31pm on Friday, May 20, 2011

Joseph4GI's conflicts of interest stated:

I don't pretend to have any kind of "neutral point of view" when it comes the subject of circumcision. I am dead against the forced circumcision of healthy, non-consenting minors. I make no exception for "religion" or "culture." The only time that a child should undergo surgery is when there is actual medical or clinical indication, and all other methods of treatment have failed. (This is also standard medical practice.)

I hold genital integrity and self-autonomy to be inalienable human rights. Unless there is clinical or medical necessity, no scientist, researcher or doctor has legal permission to forcefully mutilate the genitals of healthy, non-consenting individuals, much less offer his parents any kind of "choice." Unless there is clinical or medical indication, taking a healthy, non-consenting individual, strapping him/her down and forcefully cutting off his/her genitals in whole or in part, is by definition forced genital mutilation, abuse, and a violation of basic human rights.

I am against the forced circumcision of healthy, non-consenting minors because it violates the most basic of human rights. Please do not conflate my disdain for the forced circumcision of minors with a belittlement of circumcised men, or a hate for Jews. I am against the forced circumcision of healthy, non-consenting minors no matter what age, sex, ethnic group or religion. It is a violation of basic human rights no matter who does it, and where.

[Log in to reply](#)

Michelle Williams

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:26am on Saturday, May 21, 2011

good lord. don't ANY of you have a job or work or kids to take care of or something?

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