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Circumcision: Beneficial or genital mutilation?

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by **WhoKnew123** March 7, 2011 9:10 PM EST

Ann Binlot, as a journalist, I don't think I'm alone in assuming that you report facts. I would like to know where and when the AAP stated that the pain resulting from a male baby's genitals being cut on is "not significant and has no lasting effect."

What I found in the AAP's policy statement regarding pain of circumcision was:

"There is considerable evidence that newborns who are circumcised without analgesia experience pain and physiologic stress. Neonatal physiologic responses to circumcision pain include changes in heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, and cortisol levels.³⁶⁻³⁹ One report has noted that circumcised infants exhibit a stronger pain response to subsequent routine immunization than do uncircumcised infants.⁴⁰"

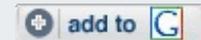
What intense pain an unsuspecting infant must truly feel when his genitals are being cut on (in the name of everything BUT medical need.) They strap him down to perform this and, frequently, parents are not present to

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comfort him. I believe it is time to come out of the dark ages, guys... and an important step in that direction would be to observe, accept and report the facts.

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by **GregIntactivist** March 7, 2011 7:26 PM EST

Circumcision is genital mutilation and medically unnecessary. Do you want this torture to happen to your children? : <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-6584757516627632617#> Doctors oppose circumcision: www.doctorsopposngcircumcision.org San Fran circumcision ban bill: www.mgmbill.org www.thewholenetwork.org www.norm.org Circumcision is psychologically damaging and traumatic: <http://www.cirp.org/library/psych/goldman1/> www.intactamerica.org www.circumstitions.com www.sexuallymutilatedchild.org

Jews oppose genital mutilation: www.jewsagainstcircumcision.org bris shalom is a practice that doesn't require genital mutilation

Muslims oppose genital mutilation: <http://www.quranicpath.com/misconceptions/circumcision.html>

Christians oppose it: <http://www.udonet.com/circumcision/christian.html>

Catholics oppose it: <http://www.catholicsagainstcircumcision.org/>

Buddists appreciate the foreskin and atheists and agnosts can use rational thought, research and information.

Men oppose circumcision and want to be whole once more: www.tlctugger.com www.norm.org www.foregen.org

As for hygiene wash with some water and circumcision INCREASES the risk of infection, HIV/AIDS, UTIs, and STIs because of the loss of the foreskin's immunological system: <http://www.norm.org/lost.html>

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8 a.m. ET Thursday, May 12
CBS News presents "A Town Hall on the Economy," with President Obama. Harry Smith and Erica Hill will join the president to discuss the economy and answer your questions.

Circumcision is sexually diminishing and mutilation because it's causes the loss of the prepuce and its various errogenous tissue of the prepuce called the frenulum and frenular delta aka the male g-spot, the ridged band, 20,000-70,000 nerve endings called meisners corpuscles located on the hands, feet, and balls (which is why they're so darn sensitive and the exposed ***** head aka glans isn't) and everything lost to circumcison: <http://www.wholebabyrevolution.com/The-Lost-List.html>

Do a simple test: rub the bottom of your hand(palm) with your fingernail then the rub the top of your hand with your fingernail. The palm being intact and the top of your hand being cut is the amount of sensation you lose to circumcison. I know it's a lot to take in but eventually you'll see the truth of genital mutilation.

Men ARE affected, many men comtemplate suicide after learning what was done to them as infants or children: <http://www.circumstitions.com/Shane.html> <http://foreskin-restoration.net/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=61>

Children die each year from circumcison and circumcison related complications and infections Do you really wanna ris your child's life for this?: <http://newborns.stanford.edu/CircComplications.html#inclusion>

It's not yours and when you are faced by your child when they find out the truth about your circumcison deal with them, your grief, and their grief of finding out they were mutilated?

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by **eIrobo** March 7, 2011 6:42 PM EST

Do you people actually check your "facts"? The claims from the African studies only show that female-to-male transmission is affected by circumcison, and that's largely because those who were circumcised were also counselled about the use of condoms. Real world statistics don't show any significant difference (in fact,

most countries show that circumcised men have higher rates of STDs, including HIV)

As far as the studies involving men circumcised as adults, you do realize that's a subjective thing, right? And that the major damage done isn't known for years? Of course they're reporting heightened sensitivity - an internal organ is now an external one, and considering most of the nerves in the glans are pain receptors, it's obvious it "feels" more. Get back to those men in twenty years when the glans has been so desensitized, it barely feels anything. Only a complete moron would believe that chopping off tens of thousands of fine-touch nerves (which are not found anywhere else on the *****) would result in no change (or an improvement???) in sensation.

You've also totally misrepresented the AAP's stance. They say that while there may be benefits, they don't outweigh the risks. They say it should be left to the parents (which is wrong. Nobody should have any say other than the owner of the *****).

And like someone above mentioned, quoting an OB/GYN on the issue of circumcision is like quoting Stephen Hawking on how to make a good cheesecake. He may be brilliant, but he has no knowledge of the actual subject. Why not quote one of the members of DOC (Doctors Opposing Circumcision)? Or quote *anyone* opposed to the forcible mutilation of boys?

Here's an activity for you: List every single person you know who has/had penile cancer. List their circumcision status. Now of the one's who were intact, how many of those were cured by having a circumcision that late in life. Now how many who were circumcised already were able to.. oh wait, they're just totally screwed.

Another exercise: List how many men you know who've had an STD. Out of the ones who were circumcised, how many got over it through the usual methods? Same number? Wow. Shocking.

Let's do another. List everyone you know who washes their *****. Out of the ones who were circumcised, how long does it take them? And for intact? Really? Pretty much the same time? Shocking.

Circumcision is an absolutely unnecessary procedure whose time had run out centuries ago. We need to stop mutilating our boys just because it's "what everyone does" (even though we're the only country who routinely does it outside of Israel)

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by **jakeww** March 8, 2011 6:17 AM EST

"Do you people actually check your "facts"? The claims from the African studies only show that

female-to-male transmission is affected by circumcision, and that's largely because those who were circumcised were also counselled about the use of condoms." -- I think *you* need to check your facts. Both circumcised and uncircumcised men were given safe-sex counselling, so this could not explain the difference observed. Furthermore, these trials were conducted due to an enormous amount of evidence (more than 40 observational studies, perhaps twice that number), admittedly of a weaker standard, that indicated a protective effect of circumcision.

"As far as the studies involving men circumcised as adults, you do realize that's a subjective thing, right?" -- Of course, sexual satisfaction is inherently subjective.

"And that the major damage done isn't known for years?" -- there's no plausible basis for that claim, since the notion that the glans loses sensitivity has long been disproven.

"Only a complete moron would believe that chopping off tens of thousands of fine-touch nerves (which are not found anywhere else on the *****) would result in no change (or an improvement???) in sensation." -- Well, first of all no study has ever measured the number of nerves in the foreskin, so fabricating numbers isn't very helpful. Secondly, Schober studied the sexual responsiveness of various parts of the ***** in 2009. The foreskin was the least sensitive of all the penile parts. Thirdly, the mechanical changes of circumcision - exposing the glans to more and more direct stimulation - would logically increase sensation, explaining the results seen in these studies.



by **rf35** March 8, 2011 12:36 PM EST

Actually jake, elrobo's facts are sound. Where did you get yours? The loss of sensitivity of the glans has been proven, not disproven. The damage builds gradually over time. Of course it's more sensitive right after circumcision, but 20 years down the road? Really? After about 7300 days of rubbing around in a pair of underpants there might be a difference! As for the number of nerve ending, I've seen similar numbers pretty often so I imagine some study has at least estimated this using scientific methods. This could be inferred from the very same sensitivity study you referenced. From your statements, I'd guess you are either a OB or a man bitter about his own childhood mutilation.



by **jake ww** March 8, 2011 1:24 PM EST

"Actually jake, elrobo's facts are sound. Where did you get yours?"

Re safe-sex counselling in the trials, the studies themselves.

Re the observational studies, knowledge of the literature as well as systematic reviews (eg., "Twenty-seven studies were included. Of these, 21 showed a reduced risk of HIV among circumcised men" Weiss HA, et al. Male circumcision and risk of HIV infection in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis. AIDS. 2000 Oct 20;14(15):2361-70, "The results from existing observational studies show a strong epidemiological association between male circumcision and prevention of HIV, especially among high-risk groups." Siegfried N, et al. Male circumcision for prevention of heterosexual acquisition of HIV in men (Cochrane Review). In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 3, 2003).

Re the glans sensitivity, here are four studies: Masters WH, Johnson VE. Human Sexual Response. Boston: Little, Brown & Co 1966: 189-91; Bleustein CB, et al. Effects of circumcision on male penile sensitivity. Paper read at the American Urological Association 98th Annual Meeting at Chicago Illinois, April 26-May 1, 2003. Publishing ID 1260, Abstract ID: 100769; Bleustein CB, et al. Effect of neonatal circumcision on penile neurologic sensation. Urology. 2005 Apr;65(4):773-7; Payne K, et al. Sensation and sexual arousal in circumcised and uncircumcised men. J Sex Med. 2007 May;4(3):667-74

Re Schober, the full ref is: Schober JM, et al. Self-ratings of genital anatomy, sexual sensitivity and function in men using the 'Self-Assessment of Genital Anatomy and Sexual Function, Male' questionnaire. BJU Int. 2009 Apr;103(8):1096-103

"The loss of sensitivity of the glans has been proven, not disproven. The damage builds gradually over time." --- see above.

"Of course it's more sensitive right after circumcision, but 20 years down the road? Really? After about 7300 days of rubbing around in a pair of underpants there might be a difference!" -- if there were, then the studies I cited above would have reported a difference (most of the participants were circumcised as infants). They didn't.

"As for the number of nerve ending, I've seen similar numbers pretty often so I imagine some study has at least estimated this using scientific methods." -- Whatever you may choose to imagine, no such study exists.



by **jake ww** March 8, 2011 3:40 PM EST

Multiple studies have found no difference in the sensitivity of the glans. See: Masters WH, Johnson VE. Human Sexual Response. Boston: Little, Brown & Co 1966: 189-91. Or: Bleustein CB, et al. Effects of circumcision on male penile sensitivity. Paper read at the American Urological Association 98th Annual Meeting at Chicago Illinois, April 26-May 1, 2003. Publishing ID 1260, Abstract ID: 100769. Or: Bleustein CB, et al. Effect of neonatal circumcision on penile neurologic sensation. Urology. 2005 Apr;65(4):773-7. Or: Payne K, et al. Sensation and sexual arousal in circumcised and uncircumcised men. J Sex Med. 2007 May;4(3):667-74.

The above-mentioned studies generally included men circumcised as infants, so if your hypothesis were correct, the difference in sensitivity ought to be measurable. It isn't.



by **psandz** March 12, 2011 2:38 PM EST

I agree broadly with your remarks. Well over 85% of men who get circumcised in adulthood do so for a foreskin problem, most commonly phimosis (NB. foreskin problems are usually correctable far less invasively than by circumcision).

It should be easy to understand that circumcising a DEFECTIVE foreskin may lead to enhanced sexual pleasure (by eliminating pain during sex), or that the outcome of circumcision for a medical reason may balance out the associated loss of important sensory nerves.

So, testimony from people circumcised for a foreskin problem is NOT representative of the great majority of intact men, who have a normal foreskin and want to keep it. THAT is why those studies of adult circumcisions are irrelevant to the ethics of circumcising healthy foreskin from babies. So your argument missed the essential point.



by **hisbodyhisrights** March 7, 2011 5:45 PM EST

I'd like to know who wrote this article and whether they have a religious/personal bias towards promoting circumcision. Their facts are wrong. The AAP does not say the pain is not significant and they do not know if it is long lasting BUT it is likely imprinted for life at a time when babies are imprinting every sight sound smell feeling...their brains are like sponges-more at that period in their lives than any other time. The pain and sexual centers of their brains are stimulated and subjected to huge cortisol surges- a stress hormone. That is likely one of the reasons babies who are circumcised experience more pain when they receive vaccinations. Look it up so called journalist.

In addition-the heads of WHO say that for American doctors to sell infant circumcision as a preventive measure against HIV is irresponsible. If there are any protective benefits, the man can decide when he is an adult (if he is going to have risky sex and not wear condoms) if he wants to have his foreskin removed. And now, there are much better ways of doing adult circumcisions than infant circumcisions that are much less painful and much more accurate. But why someone would choose having part of their ***** cut off when condoms work way better is beyond me.

Circumcised people promote circumcision. Period. Money, ignorance and denial is what keep people cutting off parts of children' sexual organs. It's sick and needs to end.

The tide has turned-cutting children' genitals is no longer acceptable. More than 66 % of babies born today are left alone. It's time for the world to leave childrens' sexual organs alone.

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by **Alimagrog** March 7, 2011 5:00 PM EST

If the foreskin is just a piece of skin that everyone is making a big deal of, then why don't we start circumcising the clitoral hood off baby girls? It is the same piece of skin that would've turned into a foreskin if the baby was a boy instead. It serves no function, even less than the foreskin does, so why isn't it cut off? Not doing it is rather discriminatory since circumcision is only being done to boys but not girls. And it won't cause any lasting harm to the girls to have the clitoral hood removed. Religions could even make that also a covenant with their respective god, a sign of a female believer. I mean, many Jewish girls go through Bat Mitzvahs as the equal to the boys' Bar Mitzvahs. Why not a nick of the clitoral hood when the girls are 3 days old?

I'm being completely serious here, and would love to hear the answers. If we can cut up our sons, why not our girls?

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by **twin_mom** March 7, 2011 6:27 PM EST

Not to mention the fact that the doctor who made that comment is an OB, not a urologist. Maybe he plays a urologist on TV. Maybe he should stick to commentary about female genitalia, which presumably he has some training with respect to.



by **najiwe nch** March 7, 2011 4:58 PM EST

I cannot believe that an ob/gyn was quoted in this article. It's like asking my husband's urologist about endometriosis. It also floors me that so much defense is made to a procedure that is vastly more dangerous when performed on infants vs being performed on adolescents or adults. But, because a newborn boy can't argue or decide for himself, let's put his life at risk and force this on him. Great idea.

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by **mpmorin** March 7, 2011 4:52 PM EST

Leave the man to make his own choice. If chooses it for his own reasons, fine. Let him be happy in his own way. To force this on a child without his consent is an abomination to humanity.

In my opinion, a parent has no right to manipulate the body of another in such a way as to deprive that person of the right to choose for themselves. Since this is a genital/sexual manipulation, a parent has no right to interfere with their grown children's sex lives.

Think about it in this way: the current hypothesis is that circumcision can prevent HIV according to studies on adult heterosexual male participants in Africa. If this is true then why would you do this to homosexual children? If this is true why would you do this to sexually inactive newborns? HIV is predominantly a choice-driven disease. Much of the disease propagation is centered on needle sharing and unsafe sex. Newborns do not have sex; therefore, a child will not benefit from the alleged HIV prevention circumcision affords. If a child acquires HIV it will not be through his pen*s unless he is a victim of child molestation.

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by **zandj** March 7, 2011 4:47 PM EST

Beneficial or genital mutilation?

100% genital mutilation. All of those same reasons (and the same origins etc) are cited by supporters of female genital mutilation but that is 100% ILLEGAL in the US. Why are boys not afforded the same rights to bodily integrity? Actually, 80% of the world seems to think boys have the right to decide what is and isn't removed from their body, America is one of the only developed 'civilized' countries left that still routinely circumcises infants. And as a side note, all those other countries do NOT have any more of an issue with STDs, penile cancer, UTIs etc than the US does. In fact, a lot of those countries have lower STD and HIV rates.

Do you want to know what else prevents all those STDs and other ailments? condoms and not being promiscuous. It really is ridiculous that these excuses are used for something done to newborns, not adults. If my son looks at these 'benefits' when he is 18 and decides they're legitimate, worth it AND will still use a condom, then by all means, he can consent to having part of his ***** cut off. Otherwise it needs to be left alone.

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by **sooth-sayer** March 7, 2011 3:00 PM EST

all of these religions love god.
all of these religious people think that god is god.
all of these religious people think that god can do no wrong.
all of these religious people think that god made man in his own image.

BUT! THEY BELIEVE.....

god made only one small mistake, he made man with a foreskin.

HUH?

god made the foreskin to protect the glans from becoming dried out.

all animals have this people. do some research.

just like he made the vagina an internal "item" as well. the vagina needs to remain moist to operate and the glans does as well.

so all of these "god fearing people" are willing to alter god's most amazing work, the human body, and mutilate it because of what? scripture? god didn't write scripture, man did.

don't mess with mother nature.

just to make sure the nay-sayers get a dose before hand....

so what did the people do before "circumcision was religious law?"

did they all die out? well if they did..... you wouldn't be reading this today, would you?

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by **twin_mom** March 7, 2011 6:30 PM EST

Not to mention the fact that an infant has no religion.



by **jt92202** March 7, 2011 2:10 PM EST

Genital mutilation - I did a lot of research when I had my son, I wanted to make an informative decision on the long lasting health implications of doing a Circumcision vs Not. This was in 1988 before the internet so I read a lot of books before we had our son and decided that there was NO need for the circumcision, we are not Jewish nor are we Muslims. A lot of people do it because they don't want to explain to the boy why his looks different from others (or their father), I thought this was a stupid reason. I was not inflicting pain on my son just because and everything I read stated that the nerves would be cut and the feeling would be less than what it would be if it wasn't done. My son was my little boy for 18 years and for the next 60+ years he would be an adult man, it was not my choice to circumcise him it was and is his choice!! I would not want someone to decide the amount of pleasure I get so why was it up to me to decide his!

Don't do things because everyone else does, research if for yourself!! We teach our kids not to jump off a bridge just because someone else does, why should we as parents do what everyone else does!

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