

Common Claims: Debunked

It is often claimed that circumcision reduces chances of contracting HIV

-There is no evidence that circumcision has had any impact on lowering the incidence of HIV infection. Of the eight HIV studies in North American heterosexual men, only one has found a significant association between circumcision and HIV infection risk: it actually found that circumcised men were at greater risk of HIV infection. Furthermore, the HIV epidemic in the United States is concentrated among men who have sex with men and injecting drug users. Using circumcision as a preventative measure of sexually transmitted infections is irrelevant to newborns and children as they are not sexually active. The decision can wait and be made by the persons whose opinion of their own body really matters.

It is sometimes claimed that circumcision reduces chances of getting penile cancer

-Cancer of the penis is a rare disease of elderly men (occurring in the U.S. in less than 1 in 100,000 men, with an average age of diagnosis of 68 years. Breast cancer is actually more common in men than cancer of the penis. To prevent penile cancer, the American Cancer Society does not recommend circumcision for all males, rather it recommends avoiding exposure to HPV and HIV, not smoking, and good genital hygiene.

Some believe circumcision reduces chances of getting a STI

-Despite the fact that infants and children are not sexually active and thus not at risk for any sexually transmitted infection (STI) (and that adults can take appropriate precautions), the idea that circumcision reduces the risk of STIs is a rationale commonly given for the practice. There is no evidence that circumcision has reduced the incidence of STIs in the United States. The prevalence of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis has declined steadily since the 80's in European nations where the majority is not circumcised. While in the United States, a country where the majority is circumcised, the incidence of syphilis and chlamydia has increased significantly. The incidence of gonorrhea in the U.S. is even 20 times higher than in Europe, while the incidence of chlamydia in the U.S. is 45 times higher than in Europe. A recent study of men visiting public STI clinics found that circumcised men were less likely than intact men to use condoms, which may in part explain these STI trends. The medical evidence does not support the practice of neonatal circumcision to prevent sexually transmitted infections. In fact, the evidence indicates that circumcision may actually increase the overall risk of STIs. Even if circumcision did reduce the risk of STIs, pre-emptive amputation is not a reasonable approach to diseases that can readily be cured with a short course of antibiotics, or prevented by simple safe-sex behaviors. An adult can choose to have his foreskin removed, if he prefers, but it is neither medically reasonable nor ethically acceptable to force this choice on healthy children.



Unaltered

Data-driven campaign to reduce circumcisions.

Foreskin: Natural and Valuable

The majority of the world's men have foreskin which has purposes including penile protection, sexual function, and intense pleasurable sensation. The average adult foreskin is about 15 square inches.

Intact Body: Human Rights

International medical leaders have condemned American doctors for cutting the genitals of baby boys - there is no compelling need!

Some people believe that circumcision, while extremely painful, is a necessary evil for baby boys. Thankfully that is not the case! There are lots of misconceptions about circumcision and what it entails. Circumcision is a costly, unnecessary, and painful medical procedure that is performed routinely on many U.S. baby boys before they leave the hospital, but it has no significant medical benefits.

European physicians condemn The American Academy of Pediatrics' 2012 policy on infant male circumcision..

The Royal Dutch Medical Association made this statement:

"Circumcision conflicts with children's rights and doctors' oaths and can have serious long-term consequences. There are no compelling health arguments in favor of circumcision, while it can have serious long-term urological, psychological and sexual consequences. And performing medically unwarranted circumcision of underage boys conflicts with good medical practice. Male infant circumcision conflicts with children's rights and the doctors' oath not to do harm."

Dedicated to Ending Circumcision

Unaltered™ is dedicated to ending routine, non-therapeutic circumcision – the genital cutting of infant boys. Babies are born with perfectly designed genitalia, and no one has the right to inflict this unnecessary procedure on them as they grow – for any reason.

We endeavor to raise awareness and challenge prevailing opinion. Unaltered™ envisions a world where children are protected from unnecessary genital reduction surgeries and are free to develop as nature intended. And with your support, we will get there.

Did you know?

- Aside from the United States, no other country in the world routinely circumcises its baby boys for non-religious reasons.
- The foreskin is perfectly normal, healthy tissue that plays an important role in sexuality.
- Circumcision has no justifiable benefits and is in fact harmful – from pain and suffering, to surgical botches, to reduced maternal-child bonding.
- Medical authorities throughout the world consider circumcision medically unnecessary and unethical.

Here's why you should consider keeping your son whole:

- It's compassionate, loving, and in your child's best interests.
- Your son's body is perfect the way it is. The foreskin is there for a reason!
- More boys are staying intact than ever before, so your son won't be any different from his peers.
- There is no good medical reason for circumcision.
- Your son's penis needs no special care or attention. Foreskin care is easy!
- Circumcision causes pain, can result in serious complications, affects breastfeeding and bonding, and can lead to long-term sexual or emotional harms.
- Children have the right to make their own decisions about their bodies.
- Raising an intact son is natural, easy, and rewarding.

As parents we spend a lot of time researching, studying, and seeking any available information we can find about the decisions we make for our kids. We each have to do the best we can with the information we find. We only fail if we stop trying.

Baby boys are born perfect and do not need corrective surgery on their genitals. The foreskin has been routinely cut off of males in the U.S. for so many generations that many people don't even know why it's there. It prevents bacteria from getting inside the penis, it keeps the glans covered and moist (the organ is supposed to be protected just like the female clitoris), and it provides sexual pleasure and lubrication for both men and their partners. In the U.S., where keeping boys intact is just now becoming a strong trend, some boys get damaged by premature foreskin retraction, leading unknowledgeable doctors to recommend circumcision, which is why many feel it's best to do it as a newborn. But that practice literally cuts off a body part — just in case it might someday have a problem (we would never do this with the appendix, tonsils, breasts, or anything else). And in countries where intact genitals are the norm and proper care is well-known, it is extremely rare that a male actually needs a circumcision.

Did you know that around half of boys in the U.S. are now being kept intact as families are learning that the procedure is completely unnecessary?

Many of our relatives and many of my friends are rejecting routine infant circumcision. Some of these friends circumcised their first, second, or even third sons, but have kept their next sons intact. Many families have one or two circumcised sons and one or two intact because they learned the truth after their first son had serious complications. Complications from circumcision can include: excessive bleeding and infection immediately following the circumcision, adhesions (the little bit of skin left sticks to the penis even though it was torn away), meatal stenosis (the urethral opening narrows from scar tissue caused by circumcision), and painful erections when the boy/man is older.

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