

# PAIN RESPONSE

“To help in determining the degree of pain and stress caused by circumcision, infant response was compared to that resulting from other procedures. ... Circumcision resulted in significantly higher levels of behavioral distress and blood cortisol levels than did the other procedures. ... It has been described as ‘among the most painful [procedures] performed in neonatal medicine.’ In one study, researchers concluded that the pain was ‘severe and persistent.’ Increases in heart rate of 55 BPM have been recorded. ... Using a pacifier during circumcision reduced crying but did not affect hormonal pain response. Therefore, while crying may be absent, other body signals demonstrate that pain is always present during circumcision.”

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Circumcision: The Hidden Trauma