

Tasmania Commissioner for Children Defends Child Rights

"Unnecessary genital surgery on babies is said to be cheaper and easier than on adults. All abuse of babies is easier. They are powerless, and history will judge us by how we protect the powerless. Do we say to children that they have no say in this because statistically when they grow up and practice unsafe sex they might be better off? I say, let the children decide for themselves—all in good time." Paul Mason, JD, Tasmania Commissioner for Children. 3 September 2008.

Supreme Court Defends Child's Right of Choice

The US Supreme Court in October turned down a father's petition in *Boldt v Boldt*. The boy's father, who converted to Judaism and wants his son circumcised, was unhappy with the decision of the Oregon Supreme Court to determine the wishes of the child, and appealed to the US Supreme Court, alleging the child's wishes are irrelevant. Fortunately, the right of the boy was paramount in the court's decision.

Intact America

A new nonprofit organization has been formed to build upon the grassroots advocacy carried out by intactivists over the past three decades and to change the American paradigm regarding male genitalia. Intact America is being led by Georganne Chapin, JD, under the Hudson Center for Health Equity & Quality in Tarrytown, New York. See www.intactamerica.org.



IntactAmerica
is dedicated to
eliminating the
practice of
unnecessary male
circumcision in the
United States.

His body, his choice

www.intactamerica.org
hischoice@intactamerica.org

Condoms 95 Times More Cost-Effective than Circumcision in HIV Battle

Behavior-change programs are more efficient and cost-effective than surgical procedures, according to a new study, "The Cost to Circumcise Africa," published in the October 2008 *International Journal of Men's Health*. In addition, condom use provides protection for women as well as men. This is significant in an area where almost 61% of adults living with AIDS are women.

Calls for Circumcision Misleading

"I wouldn't have ventured into the sensitive debate on circumcision if it did not have direct consequences for my children, and the posterity of the Luo community and other non-circumcising communities around the world," wrote Otieno Mbare, PhD. "However, the debate has been fueled following a research that was carried out in Kenya and Uganda and, consequently published in January 2008 in the *BJU International*. Had it not acquired political overtones that sought to authenticate an otherwise lop-sided research, whose methodology, validity, plausibility, and veracity are in doubt, I would not have wasted my precious time debating it.... Most members of the community have felt provoked by an assault directed at our culture.... Yet, the research is so hollow there is no way knowing whether the sample group and control group had been subjected to a full-blown situation to validate the findings.... At present, the medical literature on the health, including sexual health, implications of circumcision is contradictory, and often subject to claims of bias in research." And, he said, "The endorsement for circumcision among the Luo community is totally unacceptable!" africanpress.wordpress.com, 8/20/08.

Cost of Complications

"[I]n a two year period, I was referred >275 newborns and toddlers with complications.... None of these were 'revisions' because of appearance, which I do not do. 45% required corrective surgery.... Complications...are often not reported, but of 300 pediatric urologists in this country [you can] understand the scope of this problem...and the adverse cost-benefit aspect of complications (>\$750,000) in this unfortunate group of infants and young children." M. David Gibbons, MD, pediatric urology, *Men's Health.com*, 2008.

Genital Integrity Policy Statement

The *Doctors Opposing Circumcision Genital Integrity Policy Statement* of June 2008 states "Parental request for non-therapeutic circumcision of a son appears to exceed the powers granted to parents by law. We further recommend that doctors refuse to perform non-therapeutic circumcision at parental request.... We call on all segments of the medical community and of society to work together to create an environment in which newborn and immature human beings receive the respect for human dignity and the special protection they so richly deserve." www.doctorsopposingcircumcision.org/DOC/statement0.html.

Letter from the Editor

As more and more infants and children are being protected from genital cutting because parents, healthcare professionals, and the general population are becoming informed about the harm of circumcision and reject it, the more hyperactive proponents of circumcision become in trying to prove its worth. Even if circumcision had benefits, infants rarely, if ever, have a reason to be circumcised. The latest excuse to circumcise—prevention of HIV/AIDS—doesn't affect children, and it doesn't work for adults. Condoms are 95-times more cost effective than circumcision.

Georganne Chapin, John Geisheker, and Brian O'Donnell attended the 2008 International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. The banner at our booth read, "Male Circumcision: A Dangerous Distraction." Georganne said, "The popular opinion is with us, but the powers-that-be are driving a freight train." The "official" line completely dismisses arguments about risk-compensation, cultural imperialism, and comparisons between male and female circumcision. Anthropologists and behavioral scientists have been excluded from the discussion. Botched circumcisions and failing results will cause the strategy to backfire—it's only a matter of time.

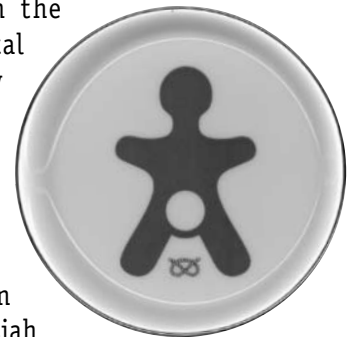
Three articles in the 2008 *South African Medical Journal* contest the value of male circumcision in preventing HIV. According to Pediatric Surgeon David Drake, "The short term complications of circumcision are serious.... As the operation does not offer significant protection against HIV/AIDS, there is no convincing evidence to date that circumcision should be recommended to all males. The point is that surgeons know that circumcision is not without problems. It is the arrogance of epidemiologists who think they do not have to ask the surgeons when they come up with fancy ideas." Pushing circumcision on a continent that has the fewest physicians per capita will deplete funds from necessary public health programs. Cost and safety are an issue. *When a male wears a condom, there is no need to be circumcised but if he's circumcised, he still needs to wear a condom.*

Our Kenyan friend, Hillary Maloba, is working with Luo Elders to protect males from circumcision. The non-circumcising Luos are being blamed for the AIDS pandemic, captured, beaten, and forcibly circumcised. Luo Council of Elders Chairman, Ker Riaga Ogallo said, "I have weathered a lot of storms and arm-twisting to endorse male circumcision among our people. I have however stood firm and will not accept it."

In September, the 10th International Symposium on Circumcision, Genital Integrity, and Human Rights, sponsored by NOCIRC, NORM-UK, and the University of Keele School of Law, was held at the University of Keele in Staffordshire, UK. A London press conference, held the day before the symposium, featured our International Child logo with the slogan, "Genital Autonomy: It's a personal choice." I said that "Circumcision is accepted only because it has been practiced for millennia and has not yet been viewed critically through the ethical and human rights lens of the

21st century." Naana Otoo-Oyortey, Executive Director of FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development), said, "It is time to recognize that the right to genital autonomy belongs to all children, regardless of race, culture, or gender." Paul Mason, Tasmania's Commissioner for Children added, "Unnecessary genital surgery on babies is said to be cheaper and easier than on adults. All abuse of babies is easier. They are powerless and history will judge us by how we protect the powerless." At the symposium, Commissioner Mason said, "Children's rights trump cultural, religious, and parental rights. Circumcision is child abuse!"

A commemorative plate with the International Child for Genital Autonomy was made especially for symposium presenters (thanks to Gaye Blake-Roberts, curator, Wedgwood Museum). Another plate, depicting a kneeling, shackled Black man, with the words "Am I not a man and a brother?" was made by Josiah Wedgwood in 1786, to support William Wilberforce's efforts to abolish slavery in the UK. Wedgwood has honored the right of people to be free and the right of children to genital integrity.



This year, NOCIRC did not apply to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) for a booth at its national convention because we've been refused again and again. ACOG members circumcise the majority of infants, but neither see the results of the harm they've done nor are they willing to be educated about it. However, at our American Academy of Pediatrics booth in Boston in October, pediatricians repeatedly said to us, "Circumcision is child abuse!"

Thank you to all of you who so generously support us...it's because of you that we can continue to protect the rights of infants and children.

Marilyn Milos

When you resort to attacking the messenger and not the message, you have lost the debate.

—Addison Whitcomb

Erratum

President of the French Conseil national du SIDA, Mr. Rosenbaum—not the President of France, as reported in the last newsletter—declared "In case of sexual relationship, condoms are the only means of individual preservation, that men be circumcised or not."

Letters to the Editor

Hi! I talked to a lady the other day on the phone about my three-year-old boy who had a pretty bad infection. She said it was yeast and to get liquid Acidophilous. I have been applying it several times a day and have been giving him about 1/2-teaspoon a day and the infection is gone! Thank you soooo much! I can't remember the last time it wasn't red! It looks so normal now!

Thanks again! – Jill

I'm a 17-year-old senior in highschool. My *mother* made me get circumcised in 10th grade because the doctor said the foreskin was too tight.... I never wanted the surgery because I believe that, if we're born with it, we should keep it.... The doctor didn't tell me that it would be 40% less sensitive and kill up to 70,000+ nerves. I was so angry. The way it looks now, it's a total different color from the rest of the penis.... I was so angry about this, I got put into an angry hospital because I hate my mother. I was wondering what I could do about this? I really want it back and I wanna know if I should try to get a foreskin restoration?

– Name withheld for privacy

Dear Marilyn,

Thankfully, the Luo Council of Elders and the Teso community have taken a stand of opposing the move by Kenyan prime minister Raila to force non-circumcising communities to start to cut all their males to reduce HIV infection. Raila is the most powerful figure in Luoland and, what he dictates for his community, they follow blindly. But I am happy that the elders are saying a Big NO to his motives this time....

Indeed Raila's words are endangering the lives of Luo, Turkana, Teso, Samias, and small tribes that do not cut males. On the Maloba border of Kenya and Uganda, Teso are being caught and cut as a solution to stop AIDS in Kenya. They are blamed for bringing HIV/AIDS into the country. We strongly oppose Raila's stand.... We know he is doing this for his political survival, in the name of saving Luos from HIV infection....

We are the strongest voices around the world to say a big NO to this inhuman practice. Tell your friends that this is a tough war against mighty powers of the world, pushing their wrong science on African people to be cut in order to eradicate HIV/AIDS in Africa. Tell them to take this issue as a serious health problem to men in Africa. Why should our people be forced to be cut as a way to stop HIV infection? Why have they failed in other research areas?

Remember us.

Good day,
Hillary Maloba
Kenya

Dear Marilyn,

When I was very young—a preschooler—my mother used to faithfully read the Scriptures to me, and she used to tell anybody who would listen about circumcision. I asked, "Is that true?" She thought it was an indication of precociousness. She didn't understand the appearance of doubt. I wondered why God was asking people to commit evil. I still do.

James Robertson, EdD
Stockton, California

Laws, Lawsuits, & Legislation

Social reformers are never, ever liked. They are always unpopular because they are always confronting a culture that doesn't want to know more about injustice for which they bear some responsibility. – Gregg Cunningham, Esq., Executive Director, Center for Bioethical Reform

UNITED STATES

Louisville, KY – A Shelby County man and his wife filed a lawsuit, saying two doctors amputated the man's penis without consent. Philip Seaton, scheduled for a circumcision, woke up to find his penis gone. He has suffered mental anguish, pain, and has lost enjoyment of life, according to the lawsuit. *WLKY.com*, 9/24/08.

Portland, Oregon – Boldt vs Boldt, see page 1.

Medical Literature Highlights

INTACT CARE

"Care of the intact penis is a simple task—leave it alone—so why all the confusion?" Geisheker JV and Travis JW. "Only Clean What Is Seen": reversing the epidemic of forcible foreskin retractions. *Kindred*, June-August 2008:28-33.

NEONATAL PAIN RELIEF AND THE HELSINKI DECLARATION

"[I]t is impossible to consider circumcision a minor issue, but rather circumcision comes to symbolize one of the greatest ongoing systemic ethical violations for which modern medicine has been responsible. We can only reiterate our collective commitment to respect for the

physical integrity of all human beings, faithful adherence to our profession's ethical requirements, and observance of the primal dictum, First, do no harm." Van Howe, RS and Svoboda, JS. Neonatal Pain Relief and the Helsinki Declaration. *Journal of Law and Medical Ethics*. December 2008, 36(4):803-823.

NEONATAL CIRCUMCISION

"[T]he high costs, potential for complications, and disregard for individual autonomy make it difficult to justify a mandate for circumcision in high-risk adults. Doing so will squander resources that could be better applied to interventions that would have a much more positive impact. Extrapolating the weak protective effect in a selective adult population to infant circumcision without any data to support can best be described as silly." Van Howe RS and Svoboda JS. Neonatal circumcision is neither medically necessary nor ethically permissible: A response to Clark et al. *Med. Sci. Monit*. 2007 Dec; 13(12):RA205-13.

"There is a preponderance of evidence and sound logic that support preservation of the healthy, normal, intact foreskin in newborn and infants boys. Any potential benefits of non-therapeutic infant circumcision suggested by flawed research are outweighed by the risks, pain, trauma, sequelae and loss of function incurred by the surgery. Worldwide, the majority of healthcare providers recognize that non-therapeutic infant circumcision violates the fundamental medical principal.... First, do no harm and refuse to perform this surgery." Kassel J, Kassel M, Loprinzi C. Ending Non-therapeutic Infant Circumcision Through Education. *Hawaii Journal of Public Health*, December 2008.

CIRCUMCISION COMPLICATIONS

"From our study, circumcision at 5 months results in significantly fewer serious complications than circumcision in the neonatal period, irrespective of the method used. Therefore, neonatal circumcision should not be recommended." Machmouchi M, Alkhotani A. Is neonatal circumcision judicious? *Eur J Pediatr Surg* 2007, (August);17/4:2661-2669.

CIRCUMCISION AND MEDICAID

Circumcision rates were 24% higher in states where Medicaid programs cover the procedure, according to data pulled from the Nationwide Inpatient Sample, with a sample size of 417,282 male newborns. The average rate for the 683 hospitals in the sample was 55.9%. If no states paid, the rate would drop to 38.5%. Leibowitz A, et al. Male Circumcision in the United States: Determinants and Policy Implications. *American Journal of Public Health*, January 2009. [Researcher concern for boys born to Medicaid families reveals ignorance, so prevalent in circumcising societies, about the important protective and enjoyable sexual functions of the foreskin.]

"[N]eonatal circumcision places boys at immediate risk for complications, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, and event death.... With nearly 50 million Americans lacking health insurance, and poor children going without many basic services, it is ethically, morally, and perhaps legally

inappropriate that any Medicaid program continues to fund an elective and harmful procedure.... No state should be wasting money on infant circumcision. Green LW, McAllister RG, Peterson KW, Travis JW. Medicaid Coverage of Circumcision Spreads Harm to the Poor. *American Journal of Public Health*, April 2009;99(4). www.ajph.org/ctgi/reprint/AJPH.2008.156463v1.

CIRCUMCISION AND PENILE CANCER

"[T]he risk of penile cancer is low among uncircumcised men without known risks factors living in the United States. Most experts agree that circumcision should not be recommended as a way to prevent penile cancer," according to the American Cancer Society. 7/11/08.

CIRCUMCISION AND SENSITIVITY

"The glans penis perception sensitivity decreases after circumcision." Yang DM, Lin H, Zhang B, Guo W. Circumcision Affects Glans Penis Vibration Perception Threshold. *Zhonghua Nan Ke Xue* 2008 April;14(4):328-30.

CIRCUMCISION AND HIV

"The world community must cautiously review and carefully consider the long-term consequences of mass circumcision campaigns, from the risk of increasing deaths and infections to human rights violations. In the rush to save lives, many may instead be lost and human rights trampled in the stampede." Green LW, McAllister RG, Peterson KW, Travis JW. Male circumcision is not the HIV 'vaccine' we have been waiting for! *Future HIV Ther.* (2008) 2(3):193-199.

"Male non-therapeutic infant circumcision is neither medically nor ethically justified as an HIV prevention tool.... There are far more effective prevention tools costing considerably less and offering better HIV reduction outcomes...." Sidler D, Smith J, Rode H. Neonatal circumcision does not reduce HIV/AIDS infections rates. *SAMJ* October 2008, 98(10):789-794.

"[T]he dynamics of generalised HIV epidemics in Africa appear more complex than originally thought. Male circumcision appears only as a minor factor amid many others contributing to the spread of HIV, such as the complex web of social, cultural and economic interactions surrounding sexual behaviour, especially among adolescents and young adults." Garenne, Michel, Long-term population effect of male circumcision in generalised HIV epidemics in sub-Saharan Africa. *African Journal of AIDS Research* 2008, 7(1):1-8.

"Circumcision had no protective effect in the prevention of HIV transmission. This is a concern, and has implications for the possible adoption of the mass male circumcision strategy both as public health policy and HIV prevention strategy." Connolly C, et al. Male circumcision and its relationship to HIV infection in South Africa: Results of a national survey in 2002. *SAMJ*, October 2008, 98(10):789-794.

"Given the epidemiological uncertainties and the economic cultural, ethical and logistical barriers, it seems neither justified nor practicable to roll out MC as a mass anti-HIV/AIDS intervention." Myers A, Myers J. Rolling out male circumcision as a mass HIV/AIDS intervention seems neither justified nor practicable. *South African Medical Journal*, October 2008, 98(10):781-2.

"Langerhans cells form a vital part of the body's natural defence against HIV and only cause infection when they are exposed to high levels of HIV virions. Rather than removing this natural defence mechanism by circumcision, it may be better to enhance it by thickening the layer of keratin overlying the Langerhans cells, thereby reducing the viral load to which they are exposed.... Oestrio, a cheap, readily available natural oestrogen metabolite, rapidly keratinizes the inner foreskin, the site of HIV entry into the penis.... This simple treatment could become an adjunct or alternative to surgical circumcision for reducing the incidence of HIV infection in men." Pask AJ, et al. Topical Oestrogen Keratinises The Human Foreskin and May Help Prevent HIV Infection. *www.plosone.org*, June 2008;3(6):e2308.

"Pooled analyses of available observational studies of MSM revealed insufficient evidence that male circumcision protects against HIV infection or other STIs. Millet GA, et al. *JAMA*, October 8, 2008, 300(14):1674-1684.

"Women are having unprotected sex and rejecting condoms, not just men.... It's only when safer sex and pleasure are addressed in the same breath that anyone will ever be inter-

ested in using condoms for making sex safe." Berer M. Male circumcision for HIV prevention: what about protecting men's partners? *Reproductive Health Matters* 2008;16(32):171-175.

CIRCUMCISION AND RISK OF STIs

"[E]arly childhood circumcision does not markedly reduce the risk of the common STIs in the general population in [developed] countries." Dickson NP, et al. Circumcision and Risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections in a Birth Cohort. *J Pediatr* 2008;152:383-7.

PHIMOSIS

"The topical application of betamethasone is a highly efficacious, safe, and well-tolerated treatment of phimosis...." Palmer LS and Palmer JS. The Efficacy of Topical Betamethasone for Treating Phimosis: A Comparison of Two Treatment Regimes. *Urology* 2008, 72(1):68-71. [The average age of foreskin retraction is 10.4 years, so use of betamethasone for developmental phimosis is contraindicated.]

RITUAL CIRCUMCISION AND UTIs

"This study reveals a male preponderance of neonatal UTI with a peak in incidence in the early post-circumcision period.... These data appear to contradict the assumption of a protective effect of circumcision in UTI, at least, in neonates circumcised by a mohel. Prais D, Shoov-Furman R, and Amir J. Is ritual circumcision a risk factor for neonatal urinary tract infections? *ADC Online First* as 10.1136/adc.2008.144063, 6 Oct 2008.

World News

AFRICA

Burkina Faso – Babies, instead of young girls, are being cut to escape increased scrutiny. FGM, outlawed since 1996, is punishable by 10 years in prison and US\$1500 in fines. From January to March 2008, at least 70 newborns were admitted for care after botched FGM. 1/27/2009.

Cameroon – Circumcision may lead to transmission of infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS.... Comprehensive educational programs may help circumcisers realize the importance of laying down the knife. *redorbit.com*, 9/7/08.

Kenya – A 16-year-old Kenyan boy was treated in hospital after losing part of his penis because the circumciser's knife slipped. He may require reconstructive surgery. *BBC News*, 8/2/08.

Proponents claim FGM reduces a woman's sexual desire and the likelihood that she will have several sexual partners, thus reducing her chances of contracting the virus. The Kenya Children's Act of 2001 outlaws FGM. *PlusNews.org*, 1/28/09.

Rwanda – The Ministry of Health is adopting neonatal circumcision to prevent AIDS because it is cheaper than adult circumcision, even though Dr. Agnes Binagwaho said, "Circumcision is not one hundred percent safe" and "... chances of contracting the disease are 40%, which is still high and risky." *allAfrica.com*, 12/13/08.

"Rwanda, a country where *circumcised men have a higher rate of HIV than intact men*, has already rolled out male circumcision in the military (www.circumcisionandHIV.com)," said Michael Bahinyoza. 8/10/08.

Swaziland – There is growing belief among men that circumcision provides complete protection against HIV, a perception that worries non-governmental organizations battling the highest HIV prevalence rate in the world. 7/31/08

Tanzania – Meru District Commissioner Elias Wawa-Lali received complaints about local tribesmen forcing circumcision upon intact males. Elders denounced the practice. *allAfrica.com*. 4/12/08.

Uganda – Having a circumcision policy enables Uganda to receive funding from development partners for circumcision programs. "PEPFAR, the Global Fund, the World Bank, and others have all indicated willingness to fund," says Sreen Thaddeus, a USAID senior adviser. All males will be mobilized for free mass circumcision during 2009, according to Dr. Alex Opio. The 2006 National Sero-Survey says 75% of Ugandan males are intact, and the HIV prevalence is stabilized at 6.5%. 12/19/08.

The Sabinu are the only group in Uganda to practice FGC, and Kapchorwa district chairman, Nelson Chelimo, said it was "outmoded" and "not useful." The council established

an ordinance banning FGC and submitted legislation for the ban to become law nationwide. *BBC News*, 10/15/08.

DENMARK

A mother was sentenced to two years in prison for sending two daughters to Sudan in 2003 to be circumcised. FGM has been illegal in Denmark since 2003. <http://kpolitiken.dk>, 10/1/08.

Denmark's Ethics Council and the National Council for Children said it is objectionable and ethically indefensible that a law prevents FGM while no law protects males. They recommend a law banning circumcision of boys under 15 years, the legal age for a child to have sole jurisdiction over his own body, saying "Circumcision is the irreversible damage to a child's body before he is given the chance to object."

GERMANY

A doctor must answer to the St. Georg District Court for using insufficient anaesthesia when circumcising an 8-year-old Turkish boy, causing bodily harm. As the boy screamed, the doctor allegedly carried on after the parents demanded he stop. *Hamburger Morgenpost*, 6/14/08.

ITALY

Bari – A 28-year-old Nigerian man, Eraboremi Eghanghe, was arrested for manslaughter and illegal medical practice after a 2-year-old Nigerian boy, circumcised with a "barber's razor blade and some palm oil," bled to death. 7/23/08.

NORWAY

Oslo – A husband and wife were charged for the genital mutilation of 5 of their daughters. The Gambian couple are Norwegian citizens and their daughters, 5 to 14, were born in Norway. Four daughters live with the father's two other wives in Gambia. FGM was banned in Norway in 1996. www.welt.de/english-news/.

THE PHILIPPINES

Panciao, Manjuyod – An 11-year-old boy died from tetanus after circumcision. The family of Gino Erojo blamed "unsanitized" equipment. *Sunstar.com.ph*, 8/5/08.

SOUTH AFRICA

Eastern Cape – The Department of Health will provide private wards in Eastern Cape Province hospitals for patients admitted for botched traditional circumcisions. www.buanews.gov.za/news, 11/6/08.

An 18-year-old died from infection following mutilation of his penis and improper care of the wound, according to Captain Lingisile Magama of Ibika Township. *iafrica.com*, 6/23/08.

SWITZERLAND

Zurich – A 50-year-old woman received a 6-month suspended prison sentence for genital mutilation after failing

to protect her 13-year-old half-sister by sending her back to Somalia, despite the risk. www.swissinfo.ch, 6/11/08.

A Swiss court gave Somali parents a 2-year suspended sentence for arranging a clitoridectomy for their daughter on a kitchen table when she was 2 years old. *AP*, 6/26-08

UNITED KINGDOM

"We are not calling for a ban on Jewish or Muslim parents circumcising their sons," according to Laura MacDonald, a trustee of NORM-UK, "but we're asking them to reconsider and wait until the child is old enough to give consent. If it is a religious requirement, then it has more value if carried out when someone has chosen to do it." Rabbi Danny Rich, chief executive of Liberal Judaism, said ethical requirements are of a higher order than the value of ritual practice. "Circumcision does not accord Jewish status in even the most traditional interpretations of who is a Jew and thus an uncircumcised Jewish child would be treated exactly the same as a circumcised one in our communities. *guardian.co.uk*, 9/04/08.

An Enfield doctor, Anthonipillai Nicholas-Pillai, who botched a circumcision and tried to cover up his blunder, was suspended for six months but did not lose his license. The 22-week-old Somali boy underwent corrective surgery three months later. 6/16/08.

UNITED STATES

Florida – Dr. Paul Austin discussed the pros and Dr. Robert Van Howe the cons of circumcision during the annual meeting of the American Urological Association. The message: circumcision is not without its complications, including death, and is a risky procedure with little medical indication in the newborn period. *Medical News Today*, 6/9/08.

Louisiana – A 48-year-old man, facing criminal charges for allegedly threatening to blow up a local hospital after a botched circumcision 3 years ago, was found dead with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Beasley Terrebonne wanted to sue but couldn't find a lawyer to represent him. *Dailycomet.com*, 12/25/08.

Maryland – The National Hospital Discharge Survey 2006 data from the National Center for Health Statistics shows the national infant circumcision rate was 56.1%. By race, the rates were 57.2% white, 59.8% Black/African American, 53.0% Other. The regional rates were: Northeast 63.6%, Midwest 77.9%, South 55.3%, and in the West 33.8%.

YEMEN

Both the government and civil society organizations will be involved in a 5-year social-education plan to raise awareness about FGC, according to Dr. Nafissah Al-Jaifi, Secretary General of the High Council of Motherhood and Childhood. The plan aims to reduce FGC by 30%. UNICEF has offered assistance in the project.



Announcements

16th Annual Demonstration/March Against Infant Circumcision, US Capitol, *Genital Integrity Awareness Week*. March 24th – April 1st, 2009. See www.sicsociety.org.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA PROCEEDINGS

Available from NOCIRC, POB 2512, San Anselmo, CA 94979-2512, USA:

The Truth Seeker: Crimes of Genital Mutilation. 1st International Symposium on Circumcision. James W. Prescott, Editor, Marilyn Fayre Milos, co-editor. 1989. \$10ppd.

Sexual Mutilations: A Human Tragedy. 4th International Symposium on Sexual Mutilations, ed. by George C. Denniston and Marilyn Fayre Milos. 1997. \$70ppd.

Male and Female Circumcision: Medical, Legal, and Ethical Considerations in Pediatric Practice. 5th International Symposium on Sexual Mutilations, ed. by George C. Denniston, Frederick Mansfield Hodges, and Marilyn Fayre Milos. 1999. \$75ppd.

Understanding Circumcision: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to a Multi-Dimensional Problem. 6th International Symposium on Genital Integrity, ed. by George C. Denniston, Frederick Mansfield Hodges, and Marilyn Fayre Milos. 2001. \$75ppd.

Flesh and Blood: Perspectives in the Problem of Circumcision in Contemporary Society. 7th International Symposium on Genital Integrity, ed. by George C. Denniston, Frederick Mansfield Hodges, and Marilyn Fayre Milos. 2004. \$75ppd.

Bodily Integrity and the Politics of Circumcision: Culture, Controversy, and Change. 8th International Symposium on Genital Integrity, ed. by George C. Denniston, Pia Grassivaro Gallo, Frederick Mansfield Hodges, Marilyn Fayre Milos, and Franco Viviani. 2006. \$75ppd.

NEW! *Circumcision and Human Rights*, 9th International Symposium on Genital Integrity, ed. by George C. Denniston, Frederick Mansfield Hodges, and Marilyn Fayre Milos. 2008. \$130ppd.

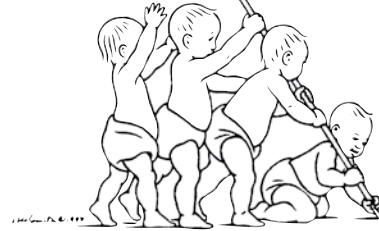
Books & Booklets

Abandoning Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: An In-Depth Look at Promising Practices, US Agency for International Development. Request order form from Population Reference Bureau,

Awaken, newsletter of Equality Now, 250 West 57th St #1527, NY, NY 10107.

The AIDS Pandemic: The Collision of Epidemiology with Political Correctness, by James Chin. 2007. Radcliffe Publishing. \$39.95.

A Surgical Temptation: The Demonization of the Foreskin & the Rise of Circumcision in Britain, Robert Darby, Ph.D. 2005. Chicago University Press. To order, write to or call 978-544-7141.



"Victorious Babies" by Alex Steelsmith

Between Rites & Rights: Excision in Women's Experiential Texts and Human Contexts, Chantal Zabus. 2007. Stanford University Press. ISBN 978-0-8047-5687-7.

Children's Genitals Under the Knife: Social imperatives, secrecy and shame, Hanny Lightfoot-Klein. 2007. BookSurge Publishing, 1-866-308-6235 or www.booksurge.com. ISBN:1-4196-2540-3.

Doctors Re-examine Circumcision, Thomas J. Ritter, MD, and George C. Denniston, MD. 3rd edition. 2002. \$15ppd. Washington: Third Millennium Publishing Co. ISBN: 0-9711878-0-0.

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Guide to Getting it On, Paul Joannides. 2006. \$19.95. Goofy Foot Press, POB 1719. Waldport, OR 97394. www.goofyfootpress.com

The Male Herbal: The Definitive Health Care Book for Men & Boys, 2d ed. James Green, Herbalist. 2007. \$12.95. Crossing Press. ISBN: 978-1-58091-175-7.

Marked in Your Flesh: Circumcision from Ancient Judea to Modern America, Leonard Glick, MD, PhD. 2005. Oxford University Press. To order, write to quabbin@rcn.com or call 978-544-7141.

Saving Behkya: Confronting Female Circumcision, Sexuality & Womanhood, Caroline Omoifo. 2007. \$22.95. New Jersey: Sun Rose Publishers. ISBN: 978-0-9712781-7-2.

What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Circumcision: Untold Facts on America's Most Widely Performed – and Most Unnecessary – Surgery, Paul M. Fleiss, MD, and Frederick M. Hodges, DPhil. 2002. \$15ppd. New York: Warner Books. ISBN: 0-446-67880-5.

Uncut: The Natural History of the Foreskin, Sherwin Carlquist, PhD. 2007.

\$25 ppd. Send check to Sherwin Carlquist to Pinecone Press, 4539 Via Huerto, Santa Barbara, CA 93110-2323.. ISBN-0-964881-9-7. [Adult content.]

Videos & CDs

Birth As We Know It. 60-min. DVD. \$50. Beautiful births and information about circumcision and genital integrity. www.birthintobeing.com.

Circumcision? Intact Facts. 18-min. VHS. \$44.05. Injoy Productions, 7107 La Vista Place, Longmont, CO 80503. Tel: 800-326-2082.

Cut: Slicing Through the Myths of Circumcision by Eliyahu Ungar-Sargon. 70-min. DVD. \$24.95 plus \$4.95 S&H. www.CutTheFilm.com.

Mother, Why Was I Circumcised? Program for Dutch public broadcast, VPRO, see www.macdocman.com.

NOCIRC 20-minute educational DVD, featuring Dr. Dean Edell. www.nocirc.org.

Restoration in Focus: Instructional Video. 100-min. VHS-PAL tape £15 (DVD & *Joy of Uncircumcising!*) e-book \$34. www.foreskinrestoration.info.

Tahara. 18-min. NTSC VHS. \$30ppd (\$100 for institutions, schools, libraries). Sara Rashad. www.taharafilm.com.

The Origins of Love and Violence: Sensory Deprivation and the Developing Brain, with James W. Prescott, PhD, and Michael Mensizza. 4+ hours. DVD. \$79. www.tffuture.org/violence/ or Touch the Future, Box 1226, Solvang, CA 93463.

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GENITAL INTEGRITY AWARENESS WEEK

16th Annual Demonstration/March for Genital Integrity

The 12th anniversary of the enactment of the law against FGM is March
30. This law has protected our daughters for 10 years. What about our
sons?

For information, see www.StopInfantCircumcision.org.

GIAW Activities

1979-2009

Celebrating 30 Years of Intactivism: Charting Our Future

Join us for dessert, discussion, and celebration

Plus: *Intactivist History*—a video montage of
still and moving images by James Lowewen

Sunday, March 29, 7:30pm

Marriott Tysons Corner, 8028 Leesburg Pike, VA

703-734-3200 or 800-228-9290

Mention the National Organization of Circumcision Information
Resource Centers for a group rate of \$109/night (1-4 occupancy).

Honorees

Marilyn Milos Hanny Lightfoot-Klein Soraya

Masters of Ceremonies

John Geisheker, Georganne Chapin

RSVP for this Sunday evening event to:
acallan@intactamerica.org or nocirc@cris.com

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