

## Circumcision Rates Plummet

The Centers for Disease Control reports the 2009 circumcision rate at 32.5%, which means intact is now the norm, as we join other English-speaking countries, where circumcision began as a way to prevent masturbation. That didn't work, nor have any of the other excuses to promote the billion-dollar-a-year industry.

## Disfigurement

Circumcision always causes disfigurement, Christopher Fletcher, MD, told attendees of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Circumcision, Genital Integrity, and Human Rights. "By any cosmetic or surgical outcomes criteria, their penises are harmed—twisted, bent, or scarred, smaller and skinnier than those of intact men." Most men, he said, are unaware of their disfigurements and think their penises are completely normal.

## \$10.8M for Botched Circumcision

A Brooklyn federal judge, awarded \$10.8 million to a boy whose glans penis was amputated by a circumcision clamp. Judge Jack Weinstein ordered Mogen Circumcision Instruments to pay compensatory and punitive damages. The clamp caused other partial penile amputations, driving the company out of business. Attorney David J. Llewellyn represented the boy.

## Protecting Boys in the USA

Regional directors from a children's rights group—MGMbill.org—submitted proposed bills to 2,800+ state and federal legislators on 1/10/11, urging them to extend the ban on FGM to MGM. Matthew Hess, the group's president, said circumcision is medically unnecessary and robs men of their right to an intact body.

## Circumcision Ban in San Francisco?

A proposed measure, submitted for the 11/11 ballot by Lloyd Schofield, would amend San Francisco's police code, making it a misdemeanor to circumcise, excise, cut, or mutilate the foreskin, testicles, or penis of a person under 18. The fine: up to \$1,000 and up to one year in jail. See: [www.SFMGMbill.org](http://www.SFMGMbill.org).

## Royal Australasian College of Physicians Policy Statement

The RACP says the foreskin has functions, including protection and sexual sensation. It does *not* recommend circumcision to prevent HIV, recognizes doctors may conscientiously object to circumcision, and says parents should be told they can wait until the child can decide for himself, saying, "The potential harms include contravention of individual rights, loss of choice, loss of function, procedure and psychological complications."

## Dutch Boys Protected

The Royal Dutch Medical Association position paper on circumcision calls for a "powerful policy of deterrence," claiming it is an infringement of a child's right to bodily integrity and personal autonomy, that its risks are underplayed, and that rejecting FGM while allowing MGM is ethically inconsistent.

## South African Boys Protected

South African Children's Rights Act amendments went into effect 4/1/10, making circumcision for frivolous reasons more difficult, requiring informed consent of both parents and the boy, if he is old enough, and the signature of the circumciser to be kept on record until the boy is 21—old enough to sue if he is not satisfied with the outcome. [See Laws, South Africa, page 4.]

## Another Death

Joshua, born in Indiana with a heart defect, underwent several surgeries. In October, at seven weeks of age, he was circumcised and then died of blood loss and cardiac failure, highlighting the danger of surgery. His doctors should be held accountable for unsound and unethical medical practices.

## Circumcised Without Consent

Mario was in intensive care at South Florida Hospital when his parents were asked and repeatedly said "No!" to circumcision. On his seventh day of life, Mario's mother, Vera Delgado, went home to shower. When she returned an hour later, her son had been circumcised. [See Laws, Lawsuits, & Legislation, page 4.]

## Mother Circumcises Son

A Portland, Oregon, mother called 911 on 10/24 after realizing her 3-month-old son was in trouble following her attempt to circumcise him. The baby was expected to live.

## American Academy of Pediatrics on FGM

The AAP's 2010 policy statement on female genital cutting suggested allowing doctors to make a "nick" in a girls' clitoris to prevent more severe mutilations. After a public outcry, and to the AAP's credit, the statement was rescinded. Will the AAP protect baby boys, too, with their upcoming statement?

## Female Genital Cutting in the USA

Girls with an "oversized clitoris" are having parts of the clitoral shaft removed at Cornell University's NY Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Dix Poppas saves the glans clitoris for reattachment, which he calls a "nerve sparing" surgery. He developed follow-up tests involving Q-tips, fingernails, and vibrators to determine residual sensitivity. No evidence suggests a large clitoris poses physical or psychological harm, but evidence of harm from genital cutting does. Harm of vibratory testing of young girls' clitorises is yet to be determined.

## Letter from the Editor

The good news is the CDC reports the circumcision rate at 32.5%. No more locker-room excuse! Meanwhile, researchers have become hyperactive, publishing one article after another, as they recycle old, often-flawed studies to justify circumcision, just as they recycle old excuses.

Attendees gathered at the Berkeley symposium to hear experts from ten countries present many excellent papers, which will be published in our next book. The symposium was hosted by both NOCIRC and Intact America. Making circumcision a national issue has been a primary goal of Intact America and Georganne Chapin, Amy Callan, and the IA team have done a superb job!

The symposium was followed by NOCIRC's 25-year celebration at the home office, where NOCIRC began. I hoped people would see that, from a simple place, big things can happen. Hugh Young presented me with a Maori blessing in that intriguing language, which was both impressive and deeply moving!

Shortly after our summer events, John Geisheker, Steve Scott, and David Wilton helped me staff our booth at the AAP conference in San Francisco. Many Hispanic doctors, who prescribe steroid creams for phimosis, were relieved to learn the average age of retractability is 10.4 years and intervention isn't necessary. Most medical students were willing to listen and learn. And, many doctors acknowledged the inability of circumcision to prevent AIDS and shared our concern for at-risk African males.

The push for circumcision in Africa is troubling. Anthropologist and economist, David Gisselquist, PhD, told attendees of the symposium that unsafe healthcare practices have contributed significantly to the AIDS pandemic. However, NIH, CDC, USAID, the UN, and the WHO stigmatize HIV-positive African men and women by claiming—against persistent evidence—that almost all HIV infections in African adults are caused by sex. Sexual behavior in Africa is no different than in Europe or the US. But what is different is that Africans are exposed to contaminated blood on instruments reused without sterilization during injections, operations, hospitalization, tattooing, male and female circumcisions, and blood tests. Blaming Africa's HIV epidemic on sex – although many infections come from health care – encourages people to distrust HIV-positive spouses, destroying families.

The plan is to circumcise millions of African males. What happens when Africans realize that sex is not the only problem – that unsafe health care has infected many of the 7-31% of women aged 15-49 years who are HIV-positive in the 15 most affected countries in East and Southern Africa? That is the information health experts ignore or suppress, hampering public awareness and outrage. Meanwhile, circumcisions, which will not stop AIDS, are performed on millions of African men, infecting an unknown number through unsterile instruments.

As we await the next AAP position on circumcision, we wonder—will it honestly and adequately address foreskin functions and the risks, harms, and lifelong consequences of circumcision? Will it acknowledge children's rights? Are the personal beliefs and practices of the task force members monitored, i.e., are they circumcised or married to circumcised men? Have they performed circumcisions or arranged circumcisions for their children? Will such conflicts of interest be declared?

Whatever the AAP proclaims, we know our intact sons are healthy, happy, and normal. Circumcision is promoted by those with personal preferences, cultural bias, religious affiliation, or profit motive. National and international laws are in place to protect infants and children, they just need to be implemented.

Thank you for your ongoing support, which keeps NOCIRC going. Together, we are making a difference in the world!



### In Memorium

**John R. Taylor, MD**, a forensic pathologist, teacher, and researcher, was an Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Manitoba. John gained international recognition for his work to support a growing opposition to infant circumcision. He was the first to identify what is now known as *Taylor's Ridged Band*, which encircles the inner opening of the foreskin and houses 20,000-100,000 specialized, erogenous nerve endings that tell the brain what the penis is feeling. He presented his findings in 1991 at the Second International Symposium on Circumcision and his research was published in the *British Journal of Urology* in 1996. His final paper on the subject, which I was honored to read at the last symposium, will be published in our Berkeley symposium book, which we will dedicate to John, who was born July 26, 1932, in England and died October 27, 2010, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

## Letters to the Editor

"Helpless baby boys writhe in agony, scream, and then pass out into unconscious, dissociated states of shock due to the overwhelmingly traumatic pain. While it may offend orthodox religious believers today who continue to inflict this intergenerational trauma, originating in warrior cultures thousands of years ago, there is nothing divinely ordained about this mutilation. To the contrary, circumcision egregiously violates core values—empathy, compassion, altruistic

joy, loving kindness, truth, and nonviolence—that are at the heart of any genuine spirituality." – Mitch Hall, MA, Activist for Peace, Nonviolence, and Children's Rights, [www.breathe-peacefully.com](http://www.breathe-peacefully.com).

"I'm a medical student close to graduating, and I stumbled across this issue at a young age. I was circumcised at birth and feel psychologically affected, distressed, and upset that I was violated. Men are ignored in the sense that we are

## Letters to the Editor (cont.)

expected to be "strong." Most men suffer in silence. When I am with my girlfriend and reach for the lubricant because she experiences pain as I penetrate, when both my girlfriend and I become numb from overstimulation, or when I have an orgasm that abruptly halts halfway through, leaving me frustrated for hours, I am painfully reminded that my member was once beautifully functional and beautifully sensitive."  
- Name withheld upon request.

*The following are reports from NOCIRC of Kenya, Africa:*

"Mass circumcision of small boys is of great concern for those with human feelings. The children have no idea why they are taken to clinics and forcibly circumcised, and they are powerless. These children suffer terrible pain before they are healed. Donors have poured out money for mass circumcision in non-circumcising communities. In targeted areas where Luos live, free circumcision clinics have been opened for Luos and Tesos, along with other tribes that don't circumcise. The government tells Luos and Teso men they will be protected from HIV, and they circumcise to please American scientists who initiated male circumcision of Luos in Kenya. In Kenya now, there is the belief that, if you are not cut, you cannot have a say or lead cut people. They will denounce you as a child, dirty and uncut. When you are circumcised, you are free to stay, work, and marry.

"Benard Anyokorit, 21, whose culture doesn't circumcise, was captured by Bukusu youth, a circumcising tribe in western Kenya and Eastern Uganda. The lkodi Teso clan vice chair-

man called police to save Anyokorit, and clan officials and police officers caught up with the youth and Anyokorit was released. He was taken to a clinic, circumcised, and taken home in pain, an angered man who thought the police would save him. The incident came three weeks after villagers in Aedomoru Village in Teso's north district saved a 35-year-old man from forced circumcision."

"A 92-year-old man was among volunteers circumcised in traditional ceremonies, making him the oldest initiate. Wilson Namange from Malanga Bungoma, avoided the rite in his youth, which he said was optional then. More than 50 Luo men were circumcised forcibly and 20 men were admitted to hospital with complications. In Teso, circumcision has been stopped due to lack of equipment at Kocholia Teso District."

"Wanga people do not circumcise Luos and respect their rights, not forcing people to practice what they don't believe in. Male circumcision never stops HIV/AIDS as claimed by American scientists. Circumcised men in Kenya are dying in great numbers due to AIDS. The American theory is causing great pain to millions in Africa, while there is widespread poverty here, where money is needed to initiate projects that will create job opportunities, fight corruption, and reduce poverty."

"I salute Luos who refuse to adopt the terrible practice of male circumcision.

"The struggle goes on, Prince Hillary"

## Dedicated to the parents of circumcised boys

### Deceived

by Christina King

*I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better.*

— Maya Angelou

Moms and dads of circumcised boys this is for you  
It is easy to forget that you have been deceived too  
When your son was born you held him in your arms  
You fell in love instantly and wanted to do him no harm  
Then the doctor came in and asked, "Do you want to circumcise?"  
He told you it was for the best and fed you nothing but lies  
"It won't get infected." He promised. "He won't get teased."  
"It's cleaner." He insisted. "If he stays whole he will be displeased!"  
"It's a decision you must make as parents," the doctor explains.  
"Do it now while you can. He's a baby. Babies feel very little pain."  
"If you don't do it now he'll grow up and have to have it done."  
"It's very painful for an adult. Doing it now would be best in the long run."

You only wanted what was best for your perfect baby boy  
You hadn't the slightest idea what the doctors were going to destroy  
He called it a mere flap of skin, he promised it was just a snip.  
If you had known the truth you never would have gone through with it.  
The foreskin, which is 15 square inches is gone, the soft ridges of the frenar band,

More than 20,000 nerve endings are lost, more things than you can count on your hand,

Several feet of blood vessels are no longer there, and that is by far not all

He will be reminded of it every day when he steps into the shower stall.

The truth eventually found its way to you and you are horrified by what you found.

"What have I done to my baby boy?" You ask yourself. In your guilt you feel you may drown

Know this, it takes a strong person to admit when you've done something wrong

This lets you begin to heal, even though it feels like it may be taking too long.

You can't change the past but you can work to make the future bright.

If we all stand up together against this horrible practice we can start to make it right.

Talking about what was done to your son is hard to do but can help the healing start.

Stop blaming yourself for trusting someone who is supposed to have your best interests at heart.

Let your son know that you are sorry and explain. It's okay to cry. It's okay to grieve.

You only wanted what was best for your child but instead you were deceived.

*It is not called the Partial Declaration of Human Rights.  
It is not the Sometimes Declaration of Human Rights.  
It is the Universal Declaration, guaranteeing all human  
beings their basic human rights, without exception.*

– Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General,  
12/10/10.

## FINLAND

**Helsinki** – Moshe and Miriam Levi, who hired a British rabbi to circumcise their son, must pay their child 1,500 Euros in damages after a Helsinki court found them guilty of conspiracy to commit bodily harm. The baby was treated for excessive bleeding at Helsinki University Hospital. *www.thejc.com*, 2/28/10.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### South African Children's Right Act

Under social, cultural, and religious practices, the relevant articles of the Act provide:

12. (1) Every child has the right *not* to be subjected to social, cultural and religious practices which are detrimental to his or her well-being.
- (3) Genital mutilation or the circumcision of female children is prohibited.
- (8) Circumcision of male children under the age of 16 is prohibited, except when
  - (a) circumcision is performed for religious purposes in accordance with the practices of the religion concerned and in the manner prescribed; or
  - (b) circumcision is performed for medical reasons on the recommendation of a medical practitioner.
- (9) Circumcision of male children older than 16 may only be performed
  - (a) if the child has given consent to the circumcision in the prescribed manner;
  - (b) after proper counseling of the child; and
  - (c) in the manner prescribed.
- (10) Taking into consideration the child's age, maturity and stage of development, every male child has the right to refuse circumcision.

## UNITED STATES

**Alameda, California** – A Jury awarded \$429,484 to an infant whose penis was allegedly disfigured for life. On 11/12/06, Evan Tank was circumcised by pediatrician/mohel, Ralph Berberich, who accidentally cut the tip off Evan's penis. Plaintiff's counsel claimed Berberich failed to separate the foreskin and glans, causing the glans to be pulled into the clamp and cut off with the foreskin. Berberich countered that Evan's parents accepted the risk of complications. *The Recorder*, 8/12/09.

**New Haven, Connecticut** – Ob/gyn Daniel S. Gottschall circumcised Joseph T, the son of Joseph J. and Robin Biondo, on 6/16/04, and partially amputated and caused traumatic injury to the baby's penis. The case was settled out of court. 11/16/10.

**Miami, Florida** – Vera Delgado, mother of Mario Viera, on 9/14/10, filed a \$1-million lawsuit in the Circuit Court of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade County, Florida, against Mary Jean Pazos, MD, for assault and battery, and South Miami Hospital, Inc. Delgado repeatedly informed Dr. Pazos and the staff that she did not authorize circumcision for her son. On 8/2/10, the defendants, without consent and in violation of Florida Medical Consent Statute 766.103, amputated Mario's foreskin. 9/15/10.

**Chicago, Illinois** – An emergency restraining order was granted to Richard Tranchida against Alana Lynn Muschong from obtaining circumcision for their infant, born 9/17/10. "Our client believes that there is no medical emergency or necessity...Valid consent from both parents is needed...In addition, we need to consider the infant's best interest and our current understanding of bioethics and infant rights should be taken into consideration," said family law attorney Jeffrey Leving. 9/20/10.

**Shelbyville, Kentucky** – Jewish Hospital Shelbyville settled a lawsuit with Phillip Seaton, after his penis was amputated without consent during a scheduled circumcision. He and his wife filed a malpractice suit against surgeon, John Patterson, who found cancer of Seaton's penis during the surgery and amputated it. "We found out about two weeks later that the cancer was in stage one, which is curable," Deborah Seaton said. *www.sentinel news.com*, 1/7/11.

**Mercer County, New Jersey** – In the case of Marji Dainty vs. Jeffrey R. Gorman, Hon. Judge Lawrence De Bello denied a father's motion to have his two sons, 11 and 14, circumcised without their mother's consent, as part of Jewish conversion. Gorman insisted the children were driving this initiative and said his family could never fully accept the boys without circumcision. Judge De Bello ruled against the father and upheld the divorced couple's previous agreement to leave the boys intact, preserving their freedom to choose religion and/or circumcision as consenting adults, if so moved. The judge reprimanded Gorman for coercing the children, making promises of lavish gifts and parties, taking them to be examined by a urologist, and encouraging them to be strong in a religious battle against their mother. The Judge ordered Gorman to cease and desist from further conversation with the children in matters of circumcision and religious indoctrination. Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Family Part, Mercer County. 1/14/11.

## ANALGESIA

"Our data suggest that oral sucrose...might not be an effective analgesic drug. The ability of sucrose to reduce clinical observational scores after noxious events in newborn infants should not be interpreted as pain relief." Slater R, Cornelissen, Fabrizi L, et al. Oral sucrose as an analgesic drug for procedural pain in newborn infants: a randomised controlled trial. *www.thelancet.com*, 9/1/10.

## APOSTHIA

"Aposthia is a very rare congenital abnormality in which the prepuce is missing...There are some reports on boys being born without a prepuce among Jew and Muslims, but this is more likely to be hypospadias. We present a boy with an actual natural circumcision or aposthia." Roudsari SS, Neda E. Aposthia: a case report. *Jped Surg* 2010 45(8):e17-e19.

## CIRCUMCISION HAS MINIMAL PROTECTIVE EFFECTS

Circumcision appears to have minimal protective effects on sexual health in Australia. Ferris, JA, et al. Circumcision in Australia: further evidence on its effects on sexual health and wellbeing. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* 2010;34(2):160-164.

## CIRCUMCISION DEATHS

Approximately 117 neonatal circumcision-related deaths (9.01/100,000) occur annually in the United States, about 1.3% of male neonatal deaths from all causes. Bollinger D. Lost Boys: An Estimate of U.S. Circumcision-Related Infant Deaths. *Thymos: Journal of Boyhood Studies*. Spring 2010 4(1):78-90.

## DECREASED RATES OF CIRCUMCISION

"The decrease in rates of circumcision in boys aged 0 to 13 years in Northern Ireland is consistent with trends in the remainder of the United Kingdom." Groves H, Bailie A, McCallion W. Childhood Circumcision in Northern Ireland: A barometer of the current practice of general pediatric surgery. *Ulster Medical J* 2010, 79(2):80-81.

## HIV/AIDS

"The understandable haste to find a solution to the HIV pandemic means that the promise offered by preliminary and specific research studies may be overstated. This may mean that ethical concerns are marginalised. Such haste may also obscure the need to be attentive to local cultural sensitivities, which vary from one African region to another, in formulating policy concerning circumcision." Fox M, Thomson M. HIV/AIDS and circumcision: lost in translation. *J Med Ethics* 2010;36:798-801.

"Policy makers should turn attention to drivers of African HIV epidemics that are policy sensitive and for which there is substantial epidemiological evidence." Sawers L, Stillwaggon E. Concurrent sexual partnerships do not

explain the HIV epidemics in Africa: a systematic review of the evidence. *Journal of the International AIDS Society* 2010 13:34.

"The policy questions to be considered are not whether a link exists between male circumcision and reduced rates of HIV infection, but rather, whether mass circumcision is (1) an ethical and safe public health choice, and (2) the most cost-effective use of limited resources." Green LW, Travis JW, McAllister RG, et al. Male Circumcision and HIV Prevention: Insufficient Evidence and Neglected External Validity. *AmJPrevMed* 2010;39(5):479-482.

"[C]ircumcision as a public health intervention will not produce a substantial decrease in HIV prevalence or incidence among MSM in the near future, and only modest reductions are achievable in the long-term." Londish GJ, Templeton DJ, Regan DG, et al. "Minimal impact of circumcision on HIV acquisition in men who have sex with men. *Sex Health*, 2010 Dec; 7(4):463-70.

"The lack of association between circumcision and HIV status...and low levels of willingness to take part in circumcision research studies suggest circumcision is unlikely to be a feasible HIV prevention strategy for MSM in the UK. Behaviour change should continue to be the focus of HIV prevention in this population." McDaid LA, Weiss HA, Hart GJ. Circumcision among men who have sex with men in Scotland: limited potential for HIV prevention. *Sex Transm Infect* 2010;86:404-406.

"Among men who reported unprotected insertive anal sex with HIV-positive partners, being uncircumcised did not confer a statistically significant increase in HIV infection risk." Gust, Deborah A., et al. Circumcision status and HIV infection among MSM: reanalysis of a Phase III HIV vaccine clinical trial. *AIDS* 2010 24:000-000. Doi:10.1097/QAD.0b013e328337b8bd.

"Although known HIV risk factors were found to be associated with HIV in this military population, there was no significant association with male circumcision." Thomas AG, et al. Prevalence of Circumcision and its Association with HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections in a Male U.S. Navy Population. *Naval Health Research Center, Report No. 04-10*.

"Genital HPV DNA detection is common in young, sexually active HM. We found HPV to be most prevalent in African men and least prevalent in men from the Asia-Pacific region. Increased numbers of sexual partners was an important risk factor for HPV DNA prevalence." Vardas, E, et al. External Genital Human Papillomavirus Prevalence and Associated Factors Among Heterosexual Men on 5 Continent. *J Infec Dis* (1 January) 2011;203:58-63.

*The HIV=AIDS hypothesis has been the pretext for what can only be described as a public health genocide directed at the African continent and elsewhere.*

– Charles L. Gesheker, PhD.

## Medical Literature Highlights (cont.)

### LICHEN SCLEROSUS

"[T]reatment with a very potent topical steroid may avoid the need for circumcision in both men and boys." Dalziel K, Shaw S. Lichen sclerosus. *BMJ*, 3 April 2010;340:759-761.

### OB/GYNS AND CIRCUMCISION

"...To excel in women's reproductive health, we should no longer passively accept or actively maintain this procedure in our speciality. Steps are suggested to remove the residual and improper inclusion of circumcision from the scope of practice of obstetrics and gynecology." Smith JF, Jr. The Professional Imperative for Obstetrician-Gynecologists to Discontinue Newborn Male Circumcision. *Am J Perinatol* 2010.

### PENILE INJURIES WITH PLASTIBELL

"Proximal migration of the Plastibell ring can result from employment of an inappropriate size, causing grievous penile injury...There is a need to redesign the Plastibell kit to eliminate its migration up the penile shaft" Bode CL, et al. *JPedUrol* February 2010, 6(1) 23-27.

### PHIMOSIS

"Topical treatment of phimosis can reduce costs by 27.3% in comparison with circumcision. Therefore, topical treatment of phimosis should be considered prior to the decision to perform surgery." Yuri D, et al. To Circ or Not to Circ: Clinical and Pharmacoeconomic Outcomes of a Prospective Trial of Topical Steroid Versus Primary Circumcision. *Int Braz J Urol*. 2010;36:75-85.

### PROTECTION

There is little evidence that circumcision can prevent sexually transmitted infections, urinary tract infections, and penile cancer. There are also risks to the surgery that range from sexual dissatisfaction to penile loss. Perara CL, et al.

Safety and Efficacy of Non-Therapeutic Male Circumcision: A Systematic Review. *Annals of Family Medicine* Jan 2010;8:64-72.

### RITUAL CIRCUMCISION AND UTIs

"Febrile male neonates who have undergone ritual circumcision have a high prevalence of UTI and must be evaluated and treated accordingly." Toke O, et al. A costly covenant: ritual circumcision and urinary tract infection. *Isr Med Assoc J* 2010 May;12(5):262-5.

### STOPPING RANDOMIZED TRIALS EARLY FOR BENEFIT OF EFFECTS

"Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) stopped early for benefit (truncated RCTs) systematically overestimate treatment effects for the outcome that precipitated early stopping. Truncated RCTs were associated with greater effect sizes than RCTs not stopped early." Bassler D, et al. Stopping Randomized Trials Early for Benefit and Estimation of Treatment Effects: Systematic Review and Meta-regression Analysis. *JAMA* 2010;303(12):1180-1187. [African RCTs were stopped early.]

### SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBILITY

"Researchers should be made co-responsible for the wider consequences of their research focus and the application of their findings." Forssén A, et al. Rethinking scientific responsibility. *www.jme.bmj.com*, 1/26/11.

### FGM & LABIAL REDUCTION

"This paper focuses on labia reduction in relation to law and policy in Britain, where there is a law against FGM which describes it in the very same terms as the procedure described by the Department of Health as labia reduction." Berer M. *Reproductive Health Matters* 2020;28(35):106:110.

## World News

### AFRICA

**Eastern Uganda** – Male babies are being circumcised free of charge with parental consent in a campaign aimed at making them "clean and reducing the dangers of acquiring HIV/AIDS," according to Kayunga Hospital medical superintendent Dr. Ahmed Matova. *www.newsvision.co.ug*, 9/15/10.

**Zambia** – Gibson Chamba, 23, suffered excessive bleeding and came close to death after an unauthorized male nurse at Luamala Clinic circumcised him and sent him home. He was taken to Solwezi General Hospital to recover. *postzambia.com*, 1/17/10.

### AUSTRALIA

**Melbourne** – Dr. Mohammed Mateen Ui Jabbar was suspended for three months after circumcising a 26-month-old boy, which resulted in gross swelling and severe scarring. Dr. Jabbar failed to visually check the Plastibell to ensure

urinary passage. The boy required six corrective surgeries. *www.heraldsun.com.au*. 11/11/10.

### BANGLADESH

**Sonagazi Upazila** – Six-year-old Sajjad Mimu allegedly received three injections of lidocaine prior to circumcision, became sick and fainted. His father took him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The village doctor, Kamal Uddin, reportedly fled. Police chief Nizam Uddin said appropriate measures would be taken. *Bdnew24.com*, 2/25/10.

### CANADA

**British Columbia** – Supreme Court Justice Marion Allan sentenced a 34-year-old father to one year in jail and two years' probation for attempting to circumcise his 4-year-old son. The boy was taken to hospital for completion of the surgery. *The Province*, 3/25/10.

### COLOMBIA

**Bogota** – Eastern Colombia's Embera-Chami tribe has banned FGM. After a three-year investigation, following the death of a young girl, Regional Indigenous Council leader Martin Siagama said, "We realized FGM is not traditional practice in our community, but was brought here by Europeans more than 500 years ago. Not even midwives knew what it was for." *Agence France-Presse*, 11/25/10.

### INDONESIA

**Riau** – Komaruddin, a 9-year-old boy, one of more than a hundred boys attending a circumcision ceremony, whose penis was amputated with a laser, had to undergo penis reattachment surgery. *www.thehackherald.wordpress.com* 5/24/10.

### IRAN

**Tehran** – The 100-year-old Khalid Nabi cemetery has more than 600 headstones in the shape of male and female genitals and is becoming a tourist attraction in this conservative Islamic country. *Global Post*, 11/12/10.

### ISRAEL

**Rehovot** – Kaplan Medical Center doctors saved the life of an 8-day-old baby, whose penis was nearly disconnected at its base, causing massive blood loss. The parents refused to identify the mohel. *www.jpost.com*, 6/25/10.

In Israel, opposition to circumcision has happened in just two decades, and now these "rebels" number in the tens of thousands, according to Ronit Tamir, founder of Kahal, a support group for parents who choose not to circumcise their children. *Jewish World*, 3/11/10.

### ITALY

**Rome** – Rev. Federico Lombardi, the Vatican's spokesman, said use of condoms by HIV-positive people could be "the first step of responsibility, of taking into consideration the risk to the life the person with whom there are relations." His words were greeted with anger from some conservative Catholics and with enthusiasm from clerics and health workers in Africa. The Pope is "implicitly" saying that you can no longer raise the objection that any use of the condom is an intrinsic evil. *The New York Times*, 11/12/10.

### MALAWI

**Blantyre** – Malawi will not officially promote male circumcision. "We have no scientific evidence that circumcision is a sure way of slowing down the spread of AIDS," said Dr. Mary Shaba, a top AIDS official. Chairman of the National AIDS Commission, Bernard Malango said studies in Malawi raised doubts. "If you go to areas where circumcision is practiced, you still find a good number of people that are HIV-positive." *www.washingtonpost.com*, 9/16/10.

### SOUTH AFRICA

**Eastern Cape** – Four brothers took revenge on a youth who allegedly circumcised their under-age siblings. Spokesman

Sizwe Kupelo said the four stabbed the youth and then re-circumcised him. Their brothers, 15 and 16, were circumcised without parental consent. The law sets the minimum age at 18. *www.lol.ca.za*, 12/2/10.

The summer death toll has risen to 20, according to the provincial health department. Spokesman Sizwe Kupelo said the latest deaths included a 19-year-old who died in Butterworth Hospital after circumcising himself with a knife. Most deaths are related to untreated infection of the wound. *Dispatchonline*, 12/17/10.

**Johannesburg** – The South African government halted the rollout of a controversial plastic male circumcision device, the Tara Clamp. Treatment Action Campaign, a Cape Town-based advocacy group for people with HIV, called the device dangerous and painful. The clamp has been used on 9,000 men since April. *The Press Democrat*, 12/19/10.

**Swaziland** – Billiards Association of Swaziland president, Mbongwa Dube, confirmed Manzine Pool Club would host the preliminary round of a tournament, scheduled for 1/22-23. The tournament is to encourage pool players to embrace a healthy lifestyle and to coerce them to be circumcised in order to partake in the tournament. *www.observer.org.sz*, 1/4/11.

Circumcised males have a slightly higher HIV infection rate than those who are intact (22% and 20%, respectively), according to the Swaziland Demographic and Health Survey of 2007, yet, officials are rolling out circumcision campaigns. Occupational Health Specialist, Dr. Cleopas Sibanda questioned the rationale of circumcision to justify it being adopted as part of the national HIV/AIDS prevention strategy. He noted that circumcision has increased episodes of diminished consistent use of condoms and increased incidences of HIV/AIDS-affected populations. *www.times.co.sz*, 9/19/10.

The Ministry of Health and Population Services International (PSI) neglected after-care of a group of boys who were circumcised, told they would be picked up in two days, and returned to the Nhlanguano Health Centre for help with pain management and bandage changes. The boys eventually got treatment. *www.times.co.sz* 9/8/10.

### SWEDEN

**Södertorn District Court** – A 50-year-old Egyptian citizen was sentenced to two months in prison for illegally circumcising nine small boys. His license to circumcise was previously revoked by the health board because of doubts about his ability. The circumcision law was tested in court for the first time since the law was passed nine years ago. *www.thelocal.se*, 12/14/10.

### TAIWAN

**Teipei** – A student in the mathematics class of Chen Ming-feng, 52, at National Shalu Industrial School, used his mobile phone to record his teacher talking about circumcision and sent the video to the *Apple Daily News* website. Many students, ages 16 and 17, said they were embarrassed by the

## World News (cont.)

talk. A spokesperson for the school said Chen would be disciplined. *www.earthtimes.org*, 10/8/10.

### THE NETHERLANDS

**Amsterdam** – The Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) said circumcision of underage boys without a medical reason violates human rights and contravenes the Dutch constitution, calling the procedure “a violation of the integrity of the body.” *BMJ* 2010;340:c2987.

### UNITED KINGDOM

**London** – After telling parents there are “no risks,” a GP who botched 5 circumcisions was found guilty of misconduct. The General Medical Council told Dr. Aziz Chaudry he cannot circumcise anyone for 12 months and must work with another doctor to address his deficiencies. *www.clactonandfrintongazetter.co.uk*, 8/5/10.

### UNITED STATES

**California** – An AssociatedPress-LifeGoesStrong.com Poll, conducted 1-10/10/10 by Knowledge Networks in Menlo Park, shows only 7% of people between 45-65 are satisfied with their sex lives. The US generation that promoted free love in the '60s is more dissatisfied with their sex lives than both younger and older people. The 2 in 5 men between 45 and 65 who report sexual dysfunction were born between 1945 and 1965, when the rates of circumcision in the USA were highest. *www.newsmaxhealth.com*, 11/29/10.

**Colorado** – Dr. Marci Bowers has performed two dozen reconstructive surgeries on mostly African-born women who have undergone female genital cutting, and she is becoming a beacon for victims of FGM. *AP*, 1/20/11.

**Florida** – Van and Ben Lewis celebrated 40 years of activism on 12/17/10, the anniversary of their 1970 arrest for protesting the circumcision of babies at Tallahassee Hospital. Congratulations to them both!

**Georgia** – A 35-year-old LaGrange woman was charged with cruelty to a child and faces a charge of genital mutilation after authorities discovered evidence she circumcised her 10-month-old daughter. Relatives notified authorities after noticing a piece of the baby's genitals missing during a diaper change. *Associated Press*, 3/11/10.

**South Carolina** – SC Department of Health and Human Services no longer covers routine newborn circumcisions, effective 2/1/11. *Medicaid Bulletin*, 12/14/10.

**Washington, DC** – The US government apologized for an experiment in which US government researchers infected Guatemalan prison inmates, women, and mental patients with syphilis. Inmates were infected by prostitutes and later treated with the then-new drug, penicillin. “The sexually transmitted disease inoculation study, conducted from 1946-1948 in Guatemala, was clearly unethical,” Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in a statement. “President Alvaro Colom considers these experiments crimes against humanity and Guatemala reserves the right to denounce them in an international court, said a government statement, which announced a commission to investigate the matter. 10/11/10.

The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), along with USAid and its partner John Snow International, supplied approximately 5,000 medical kits for use in Zimbabwe's program to provide male circumcision. *Allafrica.com*, 9/12/10. [That's our taxpayer dollars spent on a program that will fail—at the expense of our African brothers and sisters. Education about safe-sex practices, condom use, and distribution of free condoms would be less risky, more cost-effective, and result in a better outcome.]

*A man who trims himself to suit everybody will soon whittle himself away.*

– Chinese fortune cookie.

### **Genital Integrity Policy Statement Recommendations by Doctors Opposing Circumcision**

We recommend that the genital integrity of boys be preserved. 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 medical schools to stop requiring medical students to perform non-therapeutic circumcisions.

We call on medical societies to repudiate the practice of non-therapeutic child circumcision and to adopt genital integrity policies.

We call on hospitals to prohibit the practice of non-therapeutic circumcision of children in their facilities.

We call on the American Hospital Association to adopt a uniform genital integrity policy for its members.

We call on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to apply paragraph 2297 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and Directives 1, 6, 9, 23, 29, and 33 of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, Fourth Edition, to non-therapeutic circumcision of male children.

We call on public and private health insurance providers to support efficient use of health-care resources by ending subsidies for non-therapeutic male circumcision and by promoting genital integrity.

We call on medical doctors everywhere to refuse to perform non-therapeutic circumcision of children.

We call on healthcare professionals everywhere to make clear to the public that non-therapeutic circumcision is unhealthy and injurious to children and should not be performed.

We call on state and medical boards to establish legal and ethical guidelines for the regulation of male circumcision.

We call on courts to recognize and apply human rights law in cases involving children.

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.





"Victorious Babies" by Alex Steelsmith

## Announcements

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Demonstration/March**  
March 28-April 3, 2011, Washington, DC  
[www.StopInfantCircumcision.org](http://www.StopInfantCircumcision.org)

## New!

**Genital Autonomy: Protecting Personal Choice**, George C. Denniston, Frederick M. Hodges, Marilyn Fayre Milos. 2010. Springer. ISBN 978-90-481-9445-2.

**The Girl With Three Legs: A Memoir**, Soraya Miré. September 2011. \$26.95. Lawrence Hill Books. ISBN 978-1-56976-713-9.

**Judaism, Christianity, Islamism, Animism and Circumcision: A Psychoanalytic Study on Genital Mutilations in Children and Adolescents**, Moisés Tractenberg. 2010. Funpec Editora. ISBN 978-85-7747-047-1.

**The Measure of His Grief**, Lisa Braver Moss. 2010. \$14.95. Notim Press. ISBN 978-1453720257.

**The Other Side of the Glass**, a documentary by Janel Mirendah, addressing current medical birthing practices. The film premieres in Los Angeles during Father's Day week and then in cities across the country. For more information: [www.theothersideoftheglassthefilm.com](http://www.theothersideoftheglassthefilm.com).

**What happened?: A guide to help children understand the intact and circumcised penis**, Kathleen Legler. ISBN 978-0-615-37633-2.

### A New film & a call for help:

World's first feature film against MGM: **Beyond the fall begins...**  
Concept, research, and screen play – Sumudu G. Guruge; Director – James Loewen; Guest Director – Prasanna Jayakody; Production House – Sky Entertainers, Sri-Lanka. For additional information, please contact: James Loewen: [james3d@shaw.ca](mailto:james3d@shaw.ca) or Sumudu G. Guruge. Seeking financial assistance for the production process.

## Organizations & Websites

**Ashley Montagu Resolution and Petition: Campaign Against the Torture and Mutilation of Children**  
[www.montagunocircpetition.org](http://www.montagunocircpetition.org)

**Attorneys for the Rights of the Child**  
[www.arclaw.org](http://www.arclaw.org)

**Circumcision Decision Maker**  
[www.circumcisiondecisionmaker.com](http://www.circumcisiondecisionmaker.com)

**Circumcision Information and Resource Pages**  
[www.cirp.org](http://www.cirp.org)

**Circumcision Resource Center**  
[www.circumcision.org](http://www.circumcision.org)

**Doctors Opposing Circumcision**  
[www.doctorsopposingcircumcision.org](http://www.doctorsopposingcircumcision.org)

**End Routine Infant Circumcision**  
[www.4eric.org](http://www.4eric.org)

**Genital Autonomy**  
[www.genitalautonomy.eu](http://www.genitalautonomy.eu)

**Genital Integrity through Regenerative Medicine**  
[www.foregen.org](http://www.foregen.org)

**Intact America**  
[www.IntactAmerica.org](http://www.IntactAmerica.org)

**The Intactivism Pages**  
[www.circumstitutions.com](http://www.circumstitutions.com)

**International Coalition for Genital Integrity**  
[www.icgi.org](http://www.icgi.org)

**MGMbill.org: A Bill to End Male Genital Mutilation in the US**  
[www.mgmbill.org](http://www.mgmbill.org)

**Mothers Against Circumcision**  
[www.mothersagainstcirc.org](http://www.mothersagainstcirc.org)

**National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Centers (NOCIRC)**  
[www.nocirc.org](http://www.nocirc.org)

**National Organization of Restoring Men (NORM)**  
[www.norm.org](http://www.norm.org)

**National Organization of Restoring Men – UK**  
[www.norm-uk.org](http://www.norm-uk.org)

**National Organization to Halt the Abuse and Routine Mutilation of Males (NOHARMM)**  
[www.noharmm.org](http://www.noharmm.org)

**Not Just Skin**  
[www.notjustskin.org](http://www.notjustskin.org)

**Nurses for the Rights of the Child**  
[www.nurses.cirp.org](http://www.nurses.cirp.org)

**Saving Penises**  
[www.savingpenises.org](http://www.savingpenises.org)

**Stop Infant Circumcision Society**  
[www.sic.com](http://www.sic.com)

**Students for Genital Integrity**  
[www.studentsforgenitalintegrity.org](http://www.studentsforgenitalintegrity.org)

**Taylor's Ridged Band**  
<http://research.cirp.org>

**The WHOLE Network**  
[www.thewholenetwork.org](http://www.thewholenetwork.org)

**The Whole Network: Foreskin Friendly Physicians**  
[www.thewholenetwork.org/intact-friendly-doctors.html](http://www.thewholenetwork.org/intact-friendly-doctors.html)

**The WHOLE Network: Facebook State and International Pages**  
[www.thewholenetwork.org/locations.html](http://www.thewholenetwork.org/locations.html)

**The WHOLE Network: Library of Resources**  
[www.thenetwork.org/the-library.html](http://www.thenetwork.org/the-library.html)

## Other Websites

**Circumcision Information Australia**  
[www.circinfo.org](http://www.circinfo.org)

**History of Circumcision**  
[www.historyofcircumcision.net](http://www.historyofcircumcision.net)

**Intact**  
[www.intact.ca](http://www.intact.ca)

**Intaction.org**  
[www.intaction.org](http://www.intaction.org)

**Lucky Stiff**  
[www.luckystiff.org](http://www.luckystiff.org)

**Stop the Cut**  
[www.stopthecut.org](http://www.stopthecut.org)

## Blogs

**Are You Fully Informed?**  
[www.drnomma.org/2010/01/are-you-fully-informed.html](http://www.drnomma.org/2010/01/are-you-fully-informed.html)

**The Daily Guggie Daly**  
[www.guggiedaly.blogspot.com](http://www.guggiedaly.blogspot.com)

**Male Circumcision and HIV**  
[www.circumcisionandhiv.com](http://www.circumcisionandhiv.com)

**Men Do Complain**  
[www.mendocomplain.com](http://www.mendocomplain.com)

**México Intacto** (in Spanish)  
[www.mexicointacto.blogspot.com](http://www.mexicointacto.blogspot.com)

**Peaceful Parenting**  
[www.drnomma.org](http://www.drnomma.org)

**Restoring Tally**  
[www.restoringtally.com](http://www.restoringtally.com)

### YouTube

**Bonobo3D**  
[www.youtube.com/bonobo3d](http://www.youtube.com/bonobo3d)

**freedom0speech**  
[www.youtube.com/freedom0speech](http://www.youtube.com/freedom0speech)

**Intact America**  
[www.youtube.com/intactamerica](http://www.youtube.com/intactamerica)

**NOCIRC**  
[www.youtube.com/nocirc](http://www.youtube.com/nocirc)

**whatUneverknew**  
[www.youtube.com/user/whatUneverknew](http://www.youtube.com/user/whatUneverknew)

**The WHOLE Network**  
[www.youtube.com/TheWHOLENetwork](http://www.youtube.com/TheWHOLENetwork)

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