American Academy of Pediatrics
Betrays Babies it Claims to Serve
while
European Academy of Pediatrics
Champions Children’s Rights

Without mention of the vital protective and sexual functions of the foreskin or the psychological, physical, and sexual harm of circumcision removal, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued its 2012 Technical Report on Circumcision. The report:

- Claims the health benefits of newborn male circumcision outweigh risks—but admit no records are kept on botched circumcisions.
- Says, “The procedure’s benefits justify access to this procedure for families who choose it.”
- Calls for circumcision to be covered by private insurance and Medicaid (in the wake of dropping circumcision rates and defunding by insurance carriers).

Numerous world pediatric associations have objected vigorously to the AAP policy—in short, the AAP is now completely isolated worldwide with their misjudgment. - Holm Putzke, PhD, Prof. of Law, University of Passua

The European Academy of Pediatrics, along with the British Medical Association, Royal Dutch Medical Association, Canadian Academy of Pediatrics, and the Australian Academy of Pediatric Surgeons, has indicated there are no valid medical arguments to justify non-therapeutic neonatal circumcision.

The European Academy of Pediatrics statement concludes:

- There is no compelling evidence that neonatal circumcision is indicated for preventive or hygienic reasons. Given the lack of benefits and the risk for short and long term complications, there are insufficient arguments to justify non-therapeutic neonatal circumcision. If circumcision might prove to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, then the procedure can be done at an age the boy himself can make a well-informed decision.
- Neonatal non-therapeutic circumcision [NTNC] violates the rule that children should only undergo treatment when they are medically indicated or when it is convincingly proven that the intervention benefits the infant. Secondly, it violates the autonomy and bodily integrity of the child.
- Given the lack of evidence for any benefit of neonatal circumcision…,it is at least questionable [whether] parents who consent to neonatal circumcision are acting in the best interest of the child.
- The EAP urges all pediatricians of parents who might consider NTNC, to fully inform them about the lack of evidence for advantages and at the same time the risks of this procedure [in] the short as well as long term.
- The EAP has respect for religious, symbolic and cultural aspects of neonatal circumcision. It calls for a dialogue between representatives of religious and other organizations and the EAP regarding circumcision in newborns and young children.
- When parents decide, on religious reason, to let their baby undergo NTNC, the procedure must be performed under sterile conditions by a properly trained physician, while giving adequate anesthesia.
What an amazing and productive year this has been! In January, a Helsinki district court convicted a man of assault and battery for circumcising two Muslim boys. In February, the Swedish Pediatric Society issued a statement calling circumcision an “assault” that should be banned. In June, after a 4-year-old Muslim boy severely hemorrhaged, a German court ruled that circumcision of male minors is harmful, irreversible, and denies a boy’s right to his own body and his own religion. Jews initially took issue with the German ruling and then, as happened in San Francisco months earlier, where a lawsuit was filed to remove from the ballot a petition to ban non-therapeutic circumcision of minors, Jewish lawyers stood with Muslim lawyers demanding the religious “right” to cut their children’s genitals. The anti-semitic card was easy to play against Germany because of its history, but the German court, recognizing the rights of the child, rightfully protected all children. In August, the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute recommended the state impose a general prohibition on circumcision, while Denmark opened an investigation to determine if circumcision violates its health code.

In June, Georganne Chapin, CEO of Intact America, and I attended the International Bioethics Conference in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, during which Gert Van Dijk, PhD, bioethicist for the Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG), organized a symposium on circumcision. The issue was discussed in a civil manner by epidemiologists, healthcare practitioners, ethicists, researchers, and those with religious and cultural interests. While the Dutch are determined to protect the rights of the child, they also want to work in a civilized way with immigrants from circumcising cultures. One rabbi mentioned the importance of ritual. I agreed and mentioned that brit shalom, a ceremony of peace, is being performed by rabbis worldwide. Dr. Van Dijk asked the rabbi if he would perform a brit shalom if asked, and the rabbi said he would. I replied, “Change is happening right here!”

At our Helsinki symposium in September/October, pediatrician and Norwegian Ombudsmen for Children Dr. Anne Lindboe said that she met last year with other Nordic Ombudsmen for Children and brought circumcision to their attention. She said babies do feel pain, experience harmful consequences, and that sexually transmitted diseases need not be considered until the child is old enough to determine for himself his own bodily preferences and how he will protect himself. Dr. Lindboe said the Ombudsmen will meet again this Spring, and she is determined to bring them together to ban non-therapeutic circumcision of minors. (See James Loewen’s interview with Dr. Lindboe at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74N3S0jBTNL.)

While our Nordic friends determine the best way to protect the rights of the child, our own medical organizations are figuring out ways to drum up business. Reports claim dropping rates in circumcision could add billions to health costs—as if that amount isn’t needlessly being spent to cut boys and repair botched circumcisions—and that there will be an increased risk in disease, even though doctors worldwide say these fears are unfounded. The AAP showed its true colors when it released its deceitful 2012 Technical Report, a self-serving sales pitch. ACOG (a trade organization for obstetricians, who do most circumcisions) supports the AAP Report, which has been condemned by NOCIRC, Intact America, Doctors Opposing Circumcision, Attorneys for the Rights of the Child, Circumcision Resource Center, Canadian Children’s Health & Human Rights Partnership, and every medical and human rights group in the world that recognizes the inalienable rights of the child. Once again, the AAP assigned the decision for non-therapeutic genital surgery to parents, freeing doctors from ethical responsibility and obligation. Fortunately, more and more parents are following their own best instincts, as well as the sound advice of doctors in non-circumcising countries, and are not buying into the AAP’s propaganda. One psychiatrist wrote, “[T]hat a medical organization, representing 60,000 primary care pediatricians, has chosen not to consider long-term emotional damage is nothing less than criminal.”

Intactivists demonstrated at the October AAP National Conference in New Orleans, where Intact America held a press conference. Georganne Chapin spoke and several foreskin-deprived men talked about the harmful effects circumcision has had on them.

Each afternoon, as pediatricians exited the conference center, seven courageous men stood, some protesting what had been done to them, all in defense of those yet to be born. Jaws dropped and cameras flashed. When I first saw the men, I almost fell to my knees, the effect was so profound! Men and women are standing together now for the genital integrity rights of all children, and this consciousness-raising movement is happening worldwide.

In closing, I would like to honor the work of Ron Miller, NOCIRC of Pennsylvania, who died earlier this year, and, I would like to honor each of you for the work you are doing on behalf of the children. I also want to acknowledge the contributions you have made to NOCIRC and Intact America that allow us to continue our work. Together, we shall prevail!

Marilyn Miles

Letter from the Editor
Pediatricians Miss the Mark

“The American Academy of Pediatrics announced that the health benefits of circumcision in newborn boys outweigh the risks, but the odds against diseases are not discussed by the circumcisers, who profit $200 to $600 or more per skinning. Adult men forcibly circumcised as newborns have a lifelong disability. ‘Removing foreskin at the tip of the penis’ really means a third to half of penile skin, involving most erogenous nerves. The main purpose is identical in both male and female circumcision. Unable to eliminate sex, it takes the fun out of it. In much of Africa, it is considered a priority in keeping females chaste in mind and body. Starting in mid-19th-century America, circumcision was promoted as eliminating insanity in masturbating boys. Less publicized, it dulled sex for married adults, lessening the effects of ‘original sin’ by correcting God’s mistakes. Rather than promoting even greater practice than in ‘other developed nations,’ parents – and the physicians who do not fully inform them – should instead face civil and criminal charges.” – Jon Willand, USA

“What a task we have taken on! These people are determined, absolutely, to circumcise. And by God they will find a reason! I become increasingly convinced that down deep in their molecules there is a psychological need to sexually mutilate, and so they search for a medical justification. We must not allow them to get away with it.” – James R. Robertson, Ed.D.

From Prince Hillary Maloba in Kenya

March: Male circumcision is big business but no solution to AIDS in Africa. People should use condoms, go for HIV testing, and use ARVs. Male circumcision is spreading HIV infection faster than before. It has brought a violation of human rights. People from non-circumcising tribes are looked upon as HIV carriers. People with AIDS are beaten, evicted from their homes, and forced to face a knife in the name of kicking HIV in Africa. Luo and Teso men working and living in circumcised regions are caught, beaten, and forcibly circumcised.

The highest HIV/AIDS rates come from circumcising communities. Non-circumcising Turkanas in Kenya have the lowest AIDS rates. Luos, who previously used condoms, were fooled to accept circumcision to protect them and found it didn’t work. Circumcision in Africa is making money and creating employment for those who push it. I have counseled many Luo boys who were circumcised, believing they would be protected and regretting why they wasted their life getting circumcised, not using a condom, and becoming infected.

June: Over 30 men were forcibly circumcised in Mbale Town, Eastern Uganda, since May. They were chased, beaten, circumcised, and dumped; many hemorrhage and suffer great pain; three were left bleeding in the street until police took them to hospital. Very poor people come to Mbale for jobs, with nothing to eat and starving families, and they are being forcibly circumcised. It is sad to see old men stripped of clothes, shamed in front of wives and children, and shouted at by a crowd blaming them for bringing AIDS to Uganda. The Mbale police commander issued a stern warning and a traditional leader banned male circumcision, saying whoever does it should be arrested.

July: King Mzee, James Wamukoya, met with 23 Wanga Kingdom Elders, who said circumcision is not solving problems and suggested finding new ways to create employment and change the lives of youths. The King supported the elders and 12 of my volunteers spoke with them. One elder said that circumcision had been embraced and glorified as a holy culture for centuries but today is a business-making entity.

August: Reports confirm five more men were circumcised by force in Nambale district in Western Kenya. Intact Teso, Bakhayo, and Luo men live in fear and never come out of their houses. Our Uganda volunteer reported men being arrested on the main road to Kampala, where they say all men must be circumcised. This evil has to stop. In my district, the non-circumcising culture is dying.

Do American tax payers know this evil and pain people in Kenya and Uganda suffer from forced circumcision? AIDS is killing circumcised men. This agenda has failed to prevent HIV; instead, people are getting it more.

December: I met with Samia elders in Eastern Uganda and was happy to learn they are not backing a government plan for mass circumcision. They say their cultures should be followed to protect from HIV. They told me they celebrate every New Year with cultural festivals and will speak on forced male injustice on that day. I wish I could be there.

January 2013: Was in Uganda assessing circumcision among Samia sub-tribes in Busia and Namainingo Districts. My host, John Baraza, is a primary teacher who has seven sons, none circumcised. They were told circumcision is not their culture and does not prevent HIV. Many families in these districts have refused circumcision. No circumcision is being carried out on those who are fully informed!
AFRICA
South Africa – The national and Mpumalanga health departments face a lawsuit after an 8-year-old boy lost the tip of his penis during circumcision at Barberton Hospital four years ago. The boy may have decreased sensation, sexual dysfunction, and inability to orgasm, with attendant psychological sequella. www.thenewage.co.za 5/17/12

AUSTRIA
Vienna – Charges were brought against a rabbi/mohel, who admits circumcising more than a thousand babies without medical indication, and a general practitioner, who specializes in Islamic circumcision at his center in Vienna. The rabbi will be charged for violating medical law and the doctor faces charges from the Chamber of Doctors disciplinary committee. www.beschneidungsdebatte.info

CANADA
Ottawa – The Supreme Court of Canada dismissed the appeal of a British Columbia man who tried to circumcise his 4-year-old son on the kitchen floor with a carpet knife. All seven justices upheld the conviction for aggravated assault and assault with a weapon. The court dismissed the father’s claimed religious reasons, saying “This is a case about child abuse. This is not a case about the applicant’s religious freedom or circumcision generally.”

CHINA
Tianjin – A man (name withheld) was circumcised before his wedding, but the following day his penis began to swell, turned red, and then black as cells died. He sued the hospital for 150,000 yuan (US$23,833). http://shanghailist.com 5/10/12

FRANCE
Nevers – A Guinean couple will stand trial for “complicity in violence”—circumcision of two daughters in 2009. Put under court control in 2005 when two older daughters were found to be cut, authorities were again alerted when a younger girl was taken to hospital for vaginal bleeding. The couple faces up to 15 years in jail. www.English.rfi.fr 5/27/12

GERMANY
Cologne – A district court ruled that non-therapeutic circumcisions constitute a “serious and irreversible interference” with the human body. The court said children cannot consent to circumcision; circumcision violates the child’s rights under the law; parental rights do not allow violating the child’s rights; no one can grant surrogate consent for medically unnecessary circumcision; and, in the absence of valid consent, circumcision is an unlawful criminal assault. 6/26/13

IRAQ
Erbil – Twin three-year-old boys’ genitals were amputated following gangrene after circumcision. The boys’ father filed a lawsuit against the doctor and assistant. www.iraquupdates.com 8/14/12

MALAYSIA
Kuala Lumpur – A 14-year-old boy sued for negligence during circumcision that he claimed left his “sexual function doubtful.” The High Court settlement against the Federal Territory Islamic Affairs Department and the claim against two other defendants, the medical practitioner and advisor, was yet to be settled. http://thestar.com.my 3/23/12

SWEDEN
Sollentuna – A man and woman are in custody on suspicion of having their 3-year-old daughter circumcised in Sweden or Gambia. Illegal in Sweden since 1982, FGM has been illegal even when performed in another country since 1999, with a penalty of up to four years imprisonment. www.thelocal.se 8/19/12

UNITED STATES
Denver, Colorado – A bill to restore Medicaid funding for circumcision in Colorado died 5/4/12, saving the state an estimated $195,000 in 2013 and $230,000 the next year, according to fiscal analysts. Dr. Jennifer Johnson, a family physician, decided not to circumcise her son and recently stopped circumcising babies. “It’s a healthy, normal body part. There are a lot of medical needs in our population. We have no business using limited healthcare dollars on a medically unnecessary, cosmetic procedure,” she said. www.healthpolicysolutions.org 5/5/12

Louisiana – The Female Genital Mutilation bill, approved by the governor on 5/22/12, provides definitions and criminal penalties, including imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not more than 15 years. http://theadvocate.com 10/24/12

Miami, Florida – Steven and Keka Lorenzana filed suit against South Miami ob/gyn Lissette Molina on 5/11, claiming she botched their son’s circumcision so badly that corrective surgery could not fix the mistake. The boy will likely need counseling to overcome the lasting trauma. Atlanta attorney, David Llewellyn, is handling the case. http://blogs.miaminewtimes.com 5/23/12

Massachusetts – An 8-day-old baby suffered amputation of a portion of the ventral glans of his penis and traumatic hypospadias (damage to the opening of his urethra) at a Jewish brit milah ceremony. The baby underwent emergency surgery, was catheterized several times a day for 10 days, and now suffers night terrors. The parents, who say they suffer severe emotional distress and worry about the mental health of their child in the years to come, received a $700,000 settlement. www.masslawyersweekly.com 6/21/12

Forest Hills, New York – Forest Hills, New York - A Queens father, Gavriel Barukh, is suing Rabbi Mordechai Rachminov, claiming his son was disfigured during a bris in 2011, when the rabbi sliced off a part of his glans penis. The rabbi allegedly told the father he did an acceptable job, even though the baby needed corrective surgery. www.dnainfo.com/new-york/
Edinburg, Texas – A doctor botched a circumcision of a 4-year-old boy who, following the botched surgery, pleaded to “just cut it off and (he) can be a girl,” the parents claimed in court. Rafael and Vanessa Deleon sued Dr. Jennifer Garza after specialists told the parents Garza cauterized the penis to stop bleeding and damaged the boy’s urethra, which required reconstructive surgery. www.courthousenews.com 11/09/12

UNITED KINGDOM
Croydon – Vernon Quaintance, 68, head of the Gilgal Society (a circumcision advocacy group), was found with three videos showing nine hours of boys, as young as 11, engaging in sex acts. Movies seized included graphic child abuse footage ranked at the second-highest level of severity. Quaintance told the court he has been celibate his whole life. He admitted three counts of possession of indecent photographs of a child. Many AIDS/HIV researchers and circumcision advocates, including Australian Brian Morris, were linked to Quaintance’s website and have scurried to remove themselves from association with him.

Keele – “In line with a social justice approach, we argue that public health initiatives must comply with international ethico-legal standards and be attentive to the emergence of an international human right to health. The shift in analytical frame that we propose has the potential not only to make us re-think our approach to the ethics and legality of male circumcision by challenging its construction as a familial decision but also to impact on the need for a broader conceptualization of health law as rooted in social justice.” Fox M and Thomson M. The new politics of male circumcision: HIV/AIDS, health law and social justice. Legal Studies, 2012. DOI: 10:1111j.1748-121X.2011.00218.x

Oldham – Grace Adeleye, 67, was found guilty of manslaughter by gross negligence after 4-week-old Goodluck Cauberg died to death after his circumcision in 2010. www.oldham-chronicle.co.uk 2/8/13

UNITED STATES
New York City, NY – In the past decade, two babies died and untold others suffer the harmful mental and physical effects of the herpes virus inflicted on them during circumcision. Some Ultra-Orthodox ritual circumcisers (mohels) practice metzizah b’peh—the mohel sucks blood from the penis after cutting off the foreskin. The City called for a regulation requiring a consent form be signed by Jewish parents acknowledging the risk to their baby of contracting herpes from a mohel. While the Israel Pediatric Association has called for an end to the blood-sucking ritual, other Jewish groups sued to stop the city’s ruling. City health officials and national medical experts affirmed the risk of orally transmitting herpes, which can kill a newborn. On 1/10/13, Manhattan Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald upheld the city’s less-than-adequate regulation of asking parental consent. The NY Penal Code designates oral copulation with a minor a “criminal sexual act.” Orthodox defenders of the practice have filed an appeal to the US Court of Appeals and Brooklyn Rabbi Avrohom Cohn, chairman of the American Board of Ritual Circumcision said he would not have parents sign waiver forms that inform parents and protect babies.

ANESTHESIA
Pain following adult circumcision under general anaesthetic administration with intra-operative penile block administration is mild to moderate. Severe pain is rare and mostly related to complications. Younger patients have more discomfort in general. Rai BP, Qureshia A, Kadi N. Donat R. How painful is an adult circumcision? A prospective observational cohort study. The Journal of Urology 2012 doi: 10.1016/j.juro.2012.12.062

“Neonatal circumcision is an elective surgical procedure which causes significant pain. Neonatal circumcision without anaesthesia is unacceptable practice. Neonatal circumcision with inadequate anaesthesia is also unacceptable practice. Oral sucrose does not provide anesthesia...Topical anaesthesia with EMLA cream is inferior to other local anaesthetic techniques...Overall, general anaesthesia may arguably be more reliable than either ringblock or DPNB in ensuring adequate anaesthesia for neonatal circumcision, but involves its own risks and may mean deferment of the procedure until after six months of age.” Paix BR, Peterson SE. Circumcision of neonates and children without appropriate anaesthesia is unacceptable practice. Anesth Intensive Care 2012;40:511-516

ANATOMICAL LANDMARKS LOST WITH EMLA
“Although local edema and erythema are known potential side effects of EMLA cream...the loss of landmarks precluding safe NMC has not previously been reported, and is described here. Plank RM, et al. Loss of anatomical landmarks with eutectic mixture of local anesthetic cream for neonatal male circumcision. J Pediatr Urol. 10/23/12

EMOTIONS BIAS MEDICAL LITERATURE
“Invariably, when biased opinions promoting MC [male circumcision] are published by doctors trying to justify their own psychosexual wounding, uncircumcised doctors (who mostly see no need for amputating anatomically normal healthy erogenous tissue) are quick to refute such overstated claims. We fully expect that this distortion of the medical literature will continue until non-therapeutic male circumcision is prohibited by law and most circumcised male doctors have passed from the scene.” Boyle GJ, Hill G. Circumcision-generated emotions bias medical literature. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1464-410X.2012.10917.x/full
GLANS NECROSIS


HIV INFECTION

Wait & Wipe, Don’t Cut: A 2003-06 study team, funded by the US National Institutes of Health, recruited HIV-negative intact men in Rakai, Uganda, circumcised some, followed all, repeated both circumcision and intact men, and found the circumcised group got HIV at the rate of 0.66%/year vs. 1.33%/year for intact men. Researcher David Gisselquist, PhD, found, according to the study, that HIV infections in intact men concentrated in men who washed their penises within 3 minutes after coitus. Intact males who waited 10 minutes to wash got HIV at the rate of 0.39%/year compared to 0.66%/year for circumcised men. The foreskin provides immunological protection when allowed to function normally.


“While preliminary, the data indicate that in and of itself, circumcision did not confer significant protective benefit against STI/HIV infection. Findings suggest the need to apply caution in the use of circumcision as an HIV-prevention strategy, particularly in settings where more effective combinations of interventions have yet to be fully implemented.” Rodriguez-Diaz CE, Clatts MC, Jovet-Toledo GG, et al. Circumcision status, history of HIV/STI, and sexual risk combinations in a clinic-based sample of men in Puerto Rico. J Sex Med 2012;9:2933-2937

“[I]t is morally problematic to operate on thousands of male infants each year for little benefit to children qua children...[A]lso... use of the term ‘surgical vaccine’ to describe [circumcision] is both inaccurate and misleading.” Lyons, B. Male Infant Circumcision as ‘HIV Vaccine.’ Public Health Ethics, 1/22/13. Online ISSN 1754-9981; Print ISSN 1754-9973. http://phe.oxfordjournals.org

HUMAN RIGHTS

“We are witnessing a disturbing trend to ‘enshrine’ male circumcision into law, shielding the practice from health and safety regulation of any kind. This trend precedes any honest attempt to assess ‘morbidity,’ the unavoidable complications of any surgery, especially poignant for this unregulated and pre-germ-theory practice. Without a thorough assessment of morbidity, all bioethical discussions are, logically, premature. The author details a ‘permissive and incautious’ milieu, including a lack of qualifications for circumcisers, rudimentary training, septic non-clinical settings, withheld anesthesia and analgesia, sub-optimal surgical protocols, a lack of back-up resources, minimal post-operative observation, minimal legal remedies, and other shortcomings. It is argued that serious inquiry must ethically precede blanket legal protections accommodating atavistic adult urges.” John V. Geisheker. The Completely Unregulated Practice of Male Circumcision: Human Rights’ Abuse Enshrined in Law? New Male Studies: An International Journal 2013. 2(1):18-45. ISSN 1839-7816.

“The principle of the child’s right to an open future was first proposed by the legal philosopher Joel Feinberg and developed further by bioethicist Dena Davis. The principle holds that children possess a unique class of rights called rights in trust–rights that they cannot yet exercise, but which they will be able to exercise when they reach maturity. Parents should not, therefore, take actions that permanently foreclose on or pre-empt the future options of their children...Davis...[argues] that while parents are entitled to bring their children up in accordance with their own values, they are not entitled to inflict physical or mental harm, neither by omission nor commission...I argue that the principle is highly applicable to non-therapeutic circumcision, and conclude that non-therapeutic circumcision would be a violation of the child’s right to an open future, and thus objectionable from both an ethical and a human rights perspective.” Darby RJ. The child’s right to an open future: Is the principle applicable to non-therapeutic circumcision? J Med Ethics. 2013 Jan 30. [Epub ahead of print]

MAGGOT INFESTATION OF CIRCUMCISION WOUND

“There is a scarcity of literature regarding complications following circumcision in developing countries. Most dangerous complications are a result of procedure carried out by traditional circumcisers who are inadequately trained. Incidence of [maggot infestation] of the circumcision wound can be prevented by establishing a link between the formal and informal sections [sic] of healthcare to improve the safety of the procedure.” Hossain, MR, Islam KZ, Junaid N. Myiasis as a Rare Complication of Male Circumcision: A Case Report and Review of the Literature. Case Reports in Surgery doi:10.1055/2012/483431 [Editor’s note: Wounds are prevented by not performing non-therapeutic, unnecessary, and unethical circumcision.]

PREPUCHE

“The analysis sample consisted of 1059 uncircumcised and 310 circumcised men...This study confirms the importance of the foreskin for penile sensitivity, overall sexual satisfaction, and penile functioning. Furthermore, this study shows that a higher percentage of circumcised men experience discomfort or pain and unusual sensations as compared with the uncircumcised population. Before circumcision without medical indication, adult men, and parents considering circumcision of their sons, should be informed of the importance...


“Parents and doctors should be made aware of the non-invasive options for pathologic phimosis for better outcomes with minimal or no side-effects. Also differentiating features between physiologic and pathologic phimosis should be part of medical curriculum to minimize erroneous referrals for surgery.” Sukhbir Kaur Shahid. Phimosis in Children. Urology doi:10.5402/2012.707329

“We believe that topical steroid therapy with foreskin retraction and daily cleansing is a valid therapy modality that should be offered before any surgical intervention, regardless of the degree of phimosis.” Kuehhas FE, Miernik A, Sevcenco S, et al. Predictive Power of Objectivation of Phimosis Grade on Outcomes of Topical 0.1% Betamethasone Treatment of Phimosis. Urology 2012 www.ncbi.nih.gov


**Penile Cancer**


**Urinary Tract Infection**


“The risk of long-term consequences from childhood UTI seems to be very low. Owing to the observational nature of our study, we cannot exclude the effects of the given treatment on the outcome of our patients.” Annukka H, Perhomaa M, Venhola, M, et. al. Long-term Follow-up of Patients After Childhood Urinary Tract Infection. Arch Pediatr AdolescMed 166(12), Dec 2012; 1117.

**Zipper Entrapment**

“Most textbooks advocate cutting the median bar of the zipper, but that’s not the best method, according to Dr. Steven Selbst, Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. “You want to just pour mineral oil all over the patient’s genitalia and the zipper. Be generous, that’s the key...Let the patient sit there for 20-30 minutes...when you come back, the foreskin will have simply slipped out of that zipper, although in some cases you may need a cotton swab to help it along a bit.” Jancin B. Mineral oil drenching treats penis-in-zipper. Pediatr News 2012;46(3):29.

**Medical Literature Highlights (cont.)**

**Global Discourse**


**AFRICA**


**Prophylactic circumcision is medically unethical because it violates the child’s fundamental human right to bodily integrity. Non-therapeutic circumcision is a disgrace to our profession. Canadian physicians have a moral obligation to oppose this cruel practice and properly educate the public about the sexual function and proper care of the prepuce.** – Christopher L. Guest, MD, FRCP, Canadian Health & Human Rights Partnership for Children, www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2012/07/09/cmaj.
**World News**

**Burkina Faso** – Clitoraid, a non-profit organization helping women “restore a sense of dignity and pleasure,” is scheduled to open its ‘Pleasure Hospital’ in 10/13, Burkina Faso, West Africa. [http://www.clitoraid.org](http://www.clitoraid.org)


**Kenya** – In a traditional 2-day ceremony in Kenya, the Masai, one of the oldest cultures in Africa, changed the fate of 52 young girls in an historic Alternative Rites of Passage performed without FGM. The Epoch Times 10/10-16/12

**More in Kenya** – Research conducted by Nyansa Reproductive Health Society (NHRS) and University of Illinois at Chicago found many Kenyan parents want their children circumcised. Secretary of the Board of NRHS, Dr. Robert Bailey, a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, also led the study that claimed circumcising men reduces their risk of contracting HIV. The Star (Nairobi) 6/2/12

**More** – A Center for Disease Control (CDC) report uncovered widespread misappropriations of funds by the Nyansa Reproductive Health Society. The impropriety included the purchase of 25 vehicles without consent of CDC or NRHS boards. [www.standardmedia.co.ke](http://www.standardmedia.co.ke) 10/10/12

**And more** – Research of 1,200 infant male circumcisions performed in government hospitals in Nyansa province shows the procedure is safe and safest before one month to avoid complications. The study, conducted by Marisa Young and colleagues of the University of Illinois at Chicago’s School of Public Health, the Nyansa Reproductive Health Society, et al., was funded by the Male Circumcision Consortium with support for co-authored Professor Robert Bailey. [www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com) 11/6/12

**South Africa** – Almost 6 million South Africans (among a population of 50 million) have HIV/AIDS, but the number of new cases has halved since 1999, due to increased condom use, according to new research “Just cap it: rising condom use brings a dramatic fall in infection rates.” [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com) 3/10/12

Botched circumcisions killed 40 boys and put 100+ in the hospital in June, according to Sizwe Kupelo, health department spokesman for Eastern Cape Province. NewsCore 6/30/12

**Uganda** – President Yoweri Museveni has cautioned people against male circumcision to prevent or cure HIV/AIDS, saying ads promoting circumcising are misleading and jeopardize lives. People are spreading confusion instead of concentrating on behavior change,” he said. [www.zimeye.org](http://www.zimeye.org) 8/4/12

**Zambia** – Research in the online edition of AIDS shows a quarter of circumcised men resume sexual activity before their wounds have fully healed and the majority of them have unprotected sex with multiple partners. [www.keycorrespondents.org](http://www.keycorrespondents.org) 2/15/12

**Zimbabwe** – The 2011 Zimbabwe DHS reports 12% of intact and 14% of circumcised males are HIV-positive. [www.zimbiaspora.com](http://www.zimbiaspora.com) 7/8/12

One boy, 14, and two others, 13, were suspended from school after kidnapping an 8-year-old schoolmate and slicing off a part of his penis with a sharp object. [http://bulawayo24.com](http://bulawayo24.com) 3/15/12

**What we do to children, they will do to society.**

– Karl Menninger

Naseetabu Nbdgakeke (29) of Chilongo Village was convicted on one count of leading a team of youths that kidnapped John Chakabaya and force-marched him to their circumcision clinic in the bush and circumcised him. Mandahalele received a 4-year jail sentence. [www.newday.co.zw](http://www.newday.co.zw) 7/9/12

President Robert Mugabe’s personal health advisor, and former cabinet Minister for Health, Timothy Stamps, debunked claims from an UN-backed study that concludes male circumcision reduces HIV transmission. Stamps told a Standard journalist that circumcision did not make a difference in the adult prevalence rate, as evidenced in other countries, such as the US. [www.zimeye.org](http://www.zimeye.org) 8/6/12

**AUSTRALIA**

**Tasmania** – A Tasmania Law Reform Institute report recommends the state government ban circumcision except in cases of medical necessity or well-established religious and ethnic motives. [www.theaustralian.com.au](http://www.theaustralian.com.au) 8/20/12

**Perth** – A couple was released on bail after appearing in court for taking their one-year-old daughter to the airport for a trip to Bali, where the girl was to be circumcised. It is illegal to perform, arrange, or take a child out of state for such a procedure. [www.theaustralian.com](http://www.theaustralian.com) 10/3/12

**CANADA**

British Columbia – Tim Hammond sent the Global Survey of Circumcision Harm results (CircumcisionHarm.org) to the Canadian Paediatric Society, February 2013. See Tim’s interview with James Loewen: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVUWXyYlb78](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVUWXyYlb78)

**Photo courtesy of James Loewen**
DENMARK

Copenhagen – Dr. Preben Kirkegaard, a leading Danish pediatrician, every year sees several cases of babies with circumcision complications, including life-threatening conditions. Some were carried out by Chief Rabbi, Ben Lexner, who claims he has never seen a complication among the thousand boys he has circumcised during the last 40 years. http://endmalecircumcision.blogspot.co.uk 8/6/12

EGYPT

Cairo – Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of Organization of Islamic Conference, the world’s largest Muslim group, said “FGM is a violation of human rights of girls and women.” He added, “This practice is a ritual that has survived for centuries and must be stopped as Islam does not support it. OnIslam 12/8/12

FINLAND

Helsinki – True Finns, Finland’s third largest party, has demanded a ban on ritual circumcision of minors. Vesa-Matti Saarakkala, a lawmaker for True Finns, said, “The Finnish constitution guarantees everyone the right to personal integrity.” He said female circumcision is considered an assault in Finland, while circumcision of males is legal and that constitutes legal discrimination. www.jta.org 10/2/12

Helsinki Symposium – Presentations at the 2012 symposium were fascinating, moving, and groundbreaking. Medical and legal presentations promoted the rights of the child and exposed unethical medical practices. A speaker for the Islamic Council of Finland attended the event, saying he wanted circumcision done in hospital by doctors rather than by traditional circumcisers because it’s safer. After seeing atrocity photos of hospital circumcisions from Tim Hammond’s Circumcision Harm Documentation Survey, he understood the harm of circumcision and wants to help end the practice. In his presentation, documentary film maker (Cut: Slicing Through the Myths of Circumcision) Eli Ungar-Sargon said he found Jewish commandments that can be overridden for human dignity, and circumcision is one of them! Brian Earp’s philosophical discussion included the idea that circumcision can be discussed reasonably and sanely. The surprise appearance of Dr. Anne Lindboe, Norwegian Children’s Ombudsman, was a special treat. The 2012 Helsinki Declaration of the Right to Genital Autonomy was unanimously passed by the General Assembly on October 2, 2012 (see www.GenitalAutonomy.org).

INDIA

Alwar – A 7-year-old boy’s genitals were cut off to save his life after a botched circumcision. http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com 11/24/12

Bangalore – Azam Pasha, a 46-year-old bus driver, was nabbed by police after hiding for two months following the circumcision and hemorrhagic death of a 21-day-old boy two days after circumcision. www.dnaindia.com 7/9/12

Bodhan – Two boys, Arif, 4, and Azhar, 3, died from blood loss five days after a rural medical practitioner performed circumcision. The practitioner agreed to pay compensation to the parents and no police report was filed. www.deccanchronicle.com 5/1/12

IRELAND

Dublin – Matt McHugh, Dublin consultant plastic surgeon, says circumcision is a form of genital mutilation that exposes patients to health risks. He also said that the procedure is potentially dangerous, and extremely painful and traumatic. http://endmalecircumcision.blogspot.co.uk 5/24/12

ISRAEL

Haifa – A two-day old boy from a Galilee village was rushed to Rambam Medical Center after a ritual circumciser dismembered the child’s penis. Urologists and surgeons reattached the organ and said they expect the procedure to be successful. www.timesofisreal.com 6/1/12

Forum for Parents of Intact Children is a support network for parents who are still a little nervous about forgoing circumcision for their sons. “We thought that one day, when the babies will be grown-ups or teenagers, they will experience social problems, or maybe health problems, that are related to the foreskin,” said Ronit Tamir, who helped found the group. “But no one ever had any problems.” She estimates about 20,000 boys in Israel are intact.

NORWAY

Oslo – A 2-week-old baby died 48 hours after his circumcision. Child Ombudsman Reidar Hjermann would like a limit on the minimum age a child can be circumcised and called for ritual circumcision to be banned for any child under 15-16 years of age as a matter of health and safety. Justice Policy Center spokeswoman, Jenny Klinger, said ritual circumcision of young boys should be banned altogether just as circumcision of young girls is banned across the nation. Norwegian VG, 5/12/12

The Hague – Norway’s Ombudsman for Children and pediatrician, Dr. Anne Lindboe, proposed that Jews and Muslims replace circumcision with a symbolic, nonsurgical ritual. “Muslim and Jewish children are entitled to the same protection as all other children,” she said. www.jpost.com 8/7/12

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia – A 15-day-old baby bled to death after her clitoris was cut off. She was born into the Embera-Chami tribe, which pledged in 2010 to ban FGM after the 2007 death of another girl. columbiareports.com 4/30/12

SOUTH KOREA


SWEDEN

Stockholm – The Swedish Pediatric Society (BLF) has concluded circumcision of young boys for religious reasons should be banned in Sweden. Staffan Janson, chairman of the BLF committee for ethical issues and children’s rights, said cir-
cumcision is an attack on a young boy’s integrity. “It’s a mutilation of a child unable to decide for himself.” www.upi.com 2/19/12

UNITED KINGDOM

Birmingham – Dentist Omar Sheikh Mohamed Addow, 55, and Dr. Ali Mao Aweys, a 61-year-old GP, were arrested in separate raids following an investigation by The Sunday Times for violation of the FGM Act of 2003. Covert video recordings and other information was provided by undercover reporters. The Somalian doctors, released on bail, denied the allegations. Detective Inspector Caroline Marsh of West Midlands Police said “[W]e are currently investigating what we regard as very serious allegations.” The Sunday Times 5/6/12

Queen’s Park – Angelo Ofori-Mintah lost three-fourths of his blood over two days after Rabbi Mordehai Cohen circumcised him. He was 28-days-old when he died from cardiac arrest. The Deputy Coroner Shirley Radcliffe claimed the death was accidental. www.kilburntimes.co.uk 6/22/12

Sheffield – Non-therapeutic male circumcision is losing its funding. National Health Service Sheffield’s Clinical Commissioning Group has proposed that families pay for their son’s circumcision to save £170,000/year. http://postcode-gazetter.com 1/10/13

Stone – NORM-UK, which advances the “education of the public in all matters relating to circumcision and other forms of surgical alteration of the genitals, including alternative treatments and offering information and advice on such matters,” has been voted the top Health: Medical Research/Welfare Charity in the country. www.CharityPortal.org.uk.

UNITED STATES

New Orleans, LA – Urologist Dr. Yves Homesy, during his talk Pros & Cons of Doing Circumcisions, at the AAP conference, said “Those who oppose circumcision are conveying an important message and their voices should be heard,” referring to the demonstrators outside. He said he was there to discuss medically necessary circumcision in his session. 10/23/12

Investigators Drs. Sara Drennan and Rajiv Gala at Ochsner Medical Center, New Orleans, developed computer-generated estimates of the cost-effectiveness of mandatory or traditional circumcision strategies for various populations. For the overall US population, mandatory circumcision is not cost effective. It would prevent 494 cases of HIV at a cost of approximately $401 million, whereas 470 cases of HIV now are prevented at a cost of approximately $401 million through condoms and safe sex. www.obgynnews.com 6/14/12

New York, NY – In the middle of former president Bill Clinton’s event—a Clinton Foundation Millennium Network talk—a whistle blew and Anthony Losquardo and men in his group, Intaction, stood up, held hands, and chanted, “Stop exploiting Africans; circumcision does not stop AIDS!” The protesters targeted Clinton because he has been a dominant contributor to programs that promote circumcision of thousands of African men in a misguided attempt to slow the spread of AIDS. A statement by Intaction called African circumcision campaigns “exploitative and racist health policies.”

THE 2012 HELSINKI DECLARATION OF THE RIGHT OF GENITAL AUTONOMY

Whereas it is the fundamental and inherent right of each human being to security of the person without regard to age, sex, gender, ethnicity or religion as articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Now we declare the existence of a fundamental right of each human being a Right of Genital Autonomy, that is the right to:

• personal control of their own genital and reproductive organs; and
• protection from medically unnecessary genital modification and other irreversible reproductive interventions.

We declare that consistent with the Right of Genital Autonomy the only person who may consent to medically unnecessary genital modification and other irreversible reproductive interventions is:

• in the case of a person who is competent to give free and informed consent, being fully informed about the nature, the risks and benefits of the intervention – the person undergoing the intervention; and

• in the case of an incompetent person including a young child – only a properly constituted public authority or tribunal appointed to balance the human rights and the best interests of the person after considering the views of family members, professionals and an independent advocate for the person.

We recognise the fundamental right of parents and guardians to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Those rights of parents and guardians are not absolute, they are limited by the same fundamental human rights of others, in particular their children.

We declare that healthy genital and reproductive organs are natural, normal, functional parts of the human body. Governments and healthcare providers have a duty to educate parents and children about non-invasive hygiene, care of genital and reproductive organs, and to explain their anatomical and physiological development and function.

We encourage and support further research into the adverse consequences of such interventions.

We oppose research and experimentation that involves the performance of medically unnecessary modification and other irreversible medical interventions affecting genital and reproductive organs upon non-consenting children and adults.

We call on all governments to acknowledge the Right of Genital Autonomy for every child and adult, that is the right to:

• personal control of their own genital and reproductive organs; and
• protection from unnecessary genital modification and other irreversible reproductive interventions.

We call on all States members to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to honour their commitments under that instrument in particular Articles 2, 12, 14, 19, and 24.

Done at Helsinki, Wednesday 3 October 2012
Announcements


Genital Autonomy: Understanding the Psychological Harm of Male Circumcision. Keele University, 4/17/13, 10am - 5pm. See www.genitalautonomy.org/ai1ec_event/understanding-the-psychological-harm-of-male-circumcision/.

GoodSearch.com, for searching the web, and GoodShop.com, for shopping, donate up to 20% of every purchase you make to NOCIRC.


New!
Circumcision: Frequently Asked Questions.
Marilyn Milos. 6-page booklet. $5. NOCIRC, PO Box 2512, San Anselmo, CA 94979-2512.

CIRCUMSerum is the first personal-care product for circumcised men (about 90 million men in the USA) who suffer loss of sensitivity. Men report increased feelings after 14 days of use and 75% report increased sensation and greater satisfaction after regular use. https://www.circumserum.com/

Genital Cutting: Protecting Children from Medical, Cultural, and Religious Infringements.

God’s Doodle: The Life and Times of the Penis.

Great Sex, Naturally.
Dr. Laurie Steelsmith and Alex Steelsmith [creator of the NOCIRC Victorious Babies logo], 2012. Hay House, Inc. ISBN 978-1-4019-3146-9 pbk.) In this book, a guide to genital autonomy and genital health for expectant parents (with Christiane Northrup, MD, and Marilyn Milos, RN, on the fourth DVD). $79.95 for the set, or the option of streaming for $15 per video from: www.happyhealthychild.com.

Happy Healthy Child childbirth education series (4-DVD set) includes information about circumcision for expectant parents (with Christiane Northrup, MD, and Marilyn Milos, RN, on the fourth DVD). $79.95 for the set, or the option of streaming for $15 per video from: www.happyhealthychild.com.

International Child for Genital Autonomy
lapel pin is available from NOCIRC for $8ppd.

The International Child for Genital Autonomy is the logo of the International Symposium and Genital Autonomy organizations. On 1/1/13, NOCIRC received the Certificate of Registration for the Trademark from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. For more information about use of the logo, please contact NOCIRC or Genital Autonomy.

Organizations’ Websites

Ashley Montagu Resolution and Petition: Campaign Against the Torture and Mutilation of Children www.montagunocircpetition.org

Attorneys for the Rights of the Child www.arclaw.org

Circumcision Decision Maker www.circumcisiondecisionmaker.com

Circumcision Information and Resource Pages www.cirp.org

Circumcision Resource Center www.circumcision.org

Doctors Opposing Circumcision www.doctorsopposingcircumcision.org

Genital Autonomy www.genitalautonomy.eu

Genital Integrity through Regenerative Medicine www.foregen.org

Intact America www.IntactAmerica.org

The Intactivism Pages www.circumtions.com

MGMbill.org: A Bill to End Male Genital Mutilation in the US www.mgbill.org

Mothers Against Circumcision www.mothersagainstcerc.org

National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Centers (NOCIRC) www.nocirc.org

The Sorcerer’s Apprentice.

Windows to the Womb: Revealing the Conscious Baby from Conception to Birth.

Other Websites

Circumcision and HIV www.circumcisionandhiv.com

Circumcision Information Australia www.circinfo.org

Circumtions www.circumtions.com

History of Circumcision www.historyofcircumcision.net

Intact www.intaction.org

Lucky Stiff www.luckystiff.org

Stop the Cut www.stopthecut.org

Blogs

The Daily Guggie Daly www.guggiedaly.blogspot.com

Male Circumcision and HIV www.circumcisionandhiv.com

Intact America IntactAmerica.wordpress.com

Men Do Complain www.mendo.com

México Intacto (in Spanish) www.mexicointacto.blogspot.com

Peaceful Parenting www.drmomma.org

Restoring Tally www.restoringtally.com

YouTube

Bonobo3D www.youtube.com/bonobo3d

Intact America www.youtube.com/intactamerica

NOCIRC www.youtube.com/nocirc

whatUneverknew www.youtube.com/user/whatUneverknew

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The 13th International Symposium on Genital Autonomy and Children’s Rights

Genital Autonomy 2014

“Whole Bodies, Whole Selves: Activating Social Change”
July 24-26, 2014
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado, USA

Please submit your abstract of 150 words or less to nocirc@cris.com by December 15, 2013.

Please see genitalautonomy2014.org for additional information about abstract submission, registration details, and accommodations.

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Consultants: Ken Brierley, Georganne Chapin

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