

AAP's 2012 Technical Report & Policy on Circumcision Challenged

Danish researcher Morten Frisch and 37 other European medical and ethical authorities challenged the credibility of the American Academy of Pediatrics report, stating "There is a growing consensus among physicians, including those in the United States, that physicians should discourage parents from circumcising their healthy infant boys because non-therapeutic circumcision of underage boys in Western societies has no compelling health benefits, causes postoperative pain, can have serious long-term consequences, constitutes a violation of the United Nations' Declaration of the Rights of the Child, and conflicts with the Hippocratic oath: *primum non nocere*: First, do no harm." *Pediatrics* April 2013, 131(4):796-800.

Children Ombudspersons Commit to End Non-Therapeutic Circumcision of Minor Males

Children's ombudspersons from five Nordic countries agreed at a meeting on September 30 in Oslo to work with their respective governments to ban male circumcision when it is performed on non-consenting, underage boys for non-medical reasons. Accordingly, the children's ombudspersons from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland, and the children's spokesperson from Greenland, as well as representatives of associations of Nordic pediatricians and pediatric surgeons, all signed a resolution: *Let boys decide for themselves whether or not they want to be circumcised*.

German Council of Ex-Muslims Files Complaint Against Circumcision Law

On 12/17/13, German activists for children's rights, led by the secular and Islam-critical group, Council of Ex-Muslims, lodged an action for annulment of §1631d, the 12/12/12 authorization for parents to circumcise their sons in Germany.

German Court Protects 6-year-old Boy

A woman was forbidden by the Higher Regional Court of Hamm to have her six-year-old son circumcised because the surgery would cause the child unnecessary harm. The Court said both the mother and the child were unfit to consent to the procedure because neither was aware of the risks involved. The court ruled that children who are to undergo male circumcision must first be informed by a doctor about what the procedure involves, and that a child's informed choice to consent or otherwise should be respected.

[C]ircumcising an infant is an unnecessary violation of his bodily integrity as well as an ethically invalid form of medical violence. Parental proxy 'consent' for newborn circumcision is invalid.

—J. Steven Svoboda, JD, Attorneys for the Rights of the Child.

Council of Europe Protects Children's Right

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on 10/1/13, voted to include "children's right to physical integrity" within the body's human rights standards, amid growing concern over violations in this area. Examples include circumcision of young boys for religious, not medical, reasons, surgery to normalize the genitalia of intersex children, and the coercion of children to get tattoos, piercings, or plastic surgery. Supporters of these practices often present them as beneficial to children, despite clear evidence to the contrary. The vote approved a resolution, which among other features, recommends that governments restrict certain procedures until a child is old enough to consent to them or refuse consent.

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child report into Israel's compliance with the convention, dated 6/14/13, recommendation 41 states, "The Committee expresses concern about reported short- and long-term complications arising from some traditional male circumcision practices," and 42 "... recommends that the State party undertake a study on the short- and long-term complications of male circumcision."

Another Botched Circumcision

Circumcision turned into a disfigurement for Maggie Rhodes' 3-month-old son, Ashton, at Christ Community Health Center in Memphis, Tennessee in August. After his circumcision, Rhodes undid his diaper and wondered why her son's penis was missing. The boy now screams when he urinates and will need to have reconstructive surgery. Rhodes worries how she'll explain this to her son when he's old enough to ask questions. www.myfoxmemphis.com 11/14/13

Three More Metzitzah B'peh Herpes Victims

The ultra-Orthodox Jewish metzitzah b'peh practice of sucking blood from the penis of a newly circumcised baby has caused three new cases of herpes infections. Since 2000, there have been 14 reports in New York City of infants contracting HSV-1, two of whom died from the virus. The health department passed a regulation in September, requiring parental consent on a consent form stating the procedure can lead to health risks, but has failed to enforce it. Dr. Thomas Farley, health department commissioner, said "There is no safe way to perform oral suction on any open wound in a newborn." Jewish groups filed a lawsuit in Manhattan arguing First Amendment Rights. www.cnn.com 4/8/13 [Infants also have rights protected by the US Constitution, including freedom of religion and security of person.]

Letter from the Editor

This has been a very productive year for the Genital Autonomy Movement! The issue of circumcision has been ever-present in the public eye, from David Wilson celebrating his 20th year of demonstrations at the Capitol for Genital Integrity Week in Washington, DC, to Pride Parades across the US and Canada, to Intact America's demonstration at the ACOG (obstetrician's) conference in New Orleans, the Brother K's Blood Stained Men Demonstrations across the country, the Bay Area Intactivists monthly activities, and Anthony Loquardo's Intaction demonstrations. The Genital Autonomy conference at Keele University in the UK in September brought together people from Norway, Finland, Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany, England, and the US. There, we were told by Norwegian Ombudsman, Dr. Anne Lindboe, that Nordic Ombudsmen would meet to issue a statement in defense of children's rights, which they did.



Brother K and Marilyn Milos
San Francisco Pride Parade

I attended the Intact America demonstration and Press Conference at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, on 10/3, to protest research carried out on non-consenting minors in an attempt to determine which of two circumcision devices causes less pain and bleeding. One way to prevent pain and bleeding in babies is to stop circumcising them.

On 10/18, Steven Svoboda, director, Attorneys for the Rights of the Child, presented "Newborn Male Circumcision is Unethical and Should be Illegal" at the 20th Annual Pitts Lectureship in Medical Ethics "Ethical and Legal Issues in Pediatrics" conference at the Medical University of South Carolina. Steven spoke again the next day in a "Seminar on Pediatric Controversies" opposite several noted supporters of circumcision, including two members of the AAP Task Force on Circumcision, Dr. Michael Brady and Dr. Douglas Diekema. The response to Steven's presentations were overwhelmingly favorable and two panelists, who were advocates of circumcision prior to listening to Steven, changed their minds. You can read more about this event at arclaw.org.

The inalienable right of the child to genital autonomy is the basis of the genital autonomy argument, and no amount

of attempted medicalization or excuses for non-therapeutic genital cutting of non-consenting minors can undermine that right. Parents and physicians are not malevolent, they are just uninformed products of their culture. Once informed, they know cutting normal body parts off infants and children is *not* acceptable. We are moving from tribal control, parental control, and individual control to the realization that a baby has the same rights as every other individual in a society. This is a new consciousness, and it is growing quickly. We are blessed in this Age of Information to have the Internet, which has spread our message quickly! But, we still have a lot to do to protect those children who are at risk until their parents and physicians are educated.

Sadly, the foreskin has been greatly maligned for centuries. Clearly, the normal body part to be amputated must be made more harmful and grotesque than the act of subjecting an innocent baby or child to something so excruciatingly painful and harmful. An important aspect of our work is to educate about the protective and sexual functions of the foreskin as an integral part of a normal penis. Canadian researcher, Dr. John Taylor wrote, "Structurally, the penis is highly integrated. The glans, foreskin and skin of the penile shaft function as a single unit, not as a collection of separate parts with entirely different functions. The functions of the glans and foreskin are similar, and overlapping, but come fully into their own at different times during intercourse...The various parts of the penis, including the foreskin, form a functional whole." You can read more about this at <http://research.cirp.org>, click on "Function" in the menu.

The 14th International Symposium on Genital Autonomy and Children's Rights will feature an Early Registration, a Meet & Greet Reception, and a Meet the Pioneers session, featuring many early contributors to the Genital Autonomy Movement. For details about the symposium and our Wednesday evening event, see www.GenitalAutonomy2014.com. I hope to see you in Boulder!

In closing, I'd like to thank all our supporters and all those who work tirelessly every day to protect the genital integrity rights of infants and children. Together, we are making a difference!

Marilyn Milos

Letters to the Editor

"The single greatest disaster that occurs during childbearing of sons is the irreversible removal of the vital sexual component of the penis and all its functions, lost forever. If this is not the compelling human rights issue in any global prenatal initiative, then I can't imagine what would replace it." Elizabeth Noble, Panama City, Republic of Panama.

"For the record, when my own son was born seven years ago, he left the hospital with his penis in one piece. I think the whole "to match dad" argument is really rather a silly one. When he noticed the difference between his plumbing and mine, I explained it to my boy and he had no problem understanding anymore than I did when my father explained why

he and I looked different in the genital department. I think kids are a lot smarter than adults give them credit for!" B.K., Nyack, NY, USA.

"Because circumcision is not open to polite conversation, circumcisers have been allowed to get away with the fiction that it doesn't really hurt—a situation that denies experience. In an attempt to set aside fears of pain, a mohel in Hollywood advertises that he can get the job done in one minute. One ought to consider just how long a minute of exquisite pain really is." James R. Robertson, EdD, Stockton, CA, USA.

Letters to the Editor (cont.)

"I just finished reading Glick's book on the history of circumcision. I am astonished at the tenacity with which both the doctors and Jews cling to circumcision. It doesn't matter how much ritual has been abandoned in favor of modernity, Jews still cling to circumcision and the doctors continue to search for a disease to lend them a justification. We know the real reason is psychosexual." James R. Robertson, EdD, Stockton, CA, USA.

"I am in Kigali. This is mostly an intact country with higher HIV prevalence in circumcised than intact men, low overall HIV prevalence by African standards, and yet the government advocates circumcision." David Gisselquist, PhD, Hershey, PA, USA.

"Thank you for what you are doing to protect powerless children and girls from senseless cutting. This backward cultural practice has no place in the present generation. In Kenya and Uganda, it is being promoted in the context of saving girls from engaging in early sex and to avoid HIV, just like in the case of boys and men being cut to prevent HIV. Both practices must be stopped. The tribes currently cutting girls are backward socially, politically, and economically. Thousands of these communities have never attended school and still practice cultural traditions. More education is needed. We may blame the people, but we should also blame our governments.

Why have governments left their countries underdeveloped and their people uneducated? Prince Hillary Maloba, Kenya, Africa.

"Forced male circumcision is silently taking place in Rift valley targeting Luo men. Moses Odhiambo was caught by a gang of Kalanjine men, who beat him and took him to a clinic where he was forcibly circumcised, which is against Luo culture. For many years, Luos were in good standing with Kalanjines and helped them, following post-election violence, to evict the Kikuyus who were living in Rift Valley. The relationship between Luos and Kalanjines is in a bad state now. At this year's election, the Kalanjines teamed up with their former foes, the Kikuyus, to vote for a Kikuyu leader for president. They won and shared power. We believe the recent cutting of the Luos in Kalanjine land is a sign that Luos are not wanted there. It is politically motivated, and is not with the excuse of HIV prevention.

"This year is a circumcision year in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, S. Africa, etc. The Luos are without hope and live in fear. I wish one day that you will consider holding an international conference in Kenya. We hope through such forums, governments will seriously begin to protect the rights of these vulnerable populations." Prince Hillary Maloba, Kenya, Africa.

Laws, Lawsuits, & Legislation

AFRICA

South Africa - The national and Mpumalanga health departments are being sued for \$10.7 million after a botched circumcision was performed at Barberton Hospital, during which a 9-year-old boy lost the tip of his penis. Reattachment was attempted twice, but failed. Milile Labe, attorney for the boy, said the case was taken to the High Court in Pretoria. www.iol.co.za 6/7/13.

Durban - Adoptive Parents of a 9-year-old boy whose circumcision was botched at a Vryheid hospital were awarded R2.2 million to be paid within 14 days by the provincial Health Department, Deputy Judge President Achmet Jappie ordered in the Pietermaritzburg High Court. The boy's mother sued the department following her son's 2009 circumcision, which caused him to suffer severe burning, infections, and a loss of penile tissue. www.iolnews.co.za 6/20/13.

CANADA

Montreal - Dr. Raymond Resaie, accused of botching 31 circumcisions so badly that many babies needed corrective surgery, faces a disciplinary hearing before the College of Physicians after a fellow doctor at Sainte-Justine hospital lodged complaints. The College concluded that the circumcisions were "inadequate" and "inappropriate" and described Resaie as a danger to the public. www.cjad.com/cjad-news 12/24/13.

GERMANY

Hamm - A German-born Kenyan mother was forbidden from having her son circumcised before visiting Kenya, where circumcision is common for boys. According to the high regional court, "In this case there are substantial grounds to suggest that the circumcision sought by the child's mother would damage the psychological well-being of the six-year-old...Such 'damage' was not necessary and should not be allowed, particularly as both mother and child live in Germany and rarely travel to Kenya. www.thelocal.de/national/20130926-52097.html.

ISRAEL

Haifa - During divorce hearings, the Netanya Rabbinical Court fined the mother of a one-year-old boy 550 shekels (\$142) every day she kept her son intact, citing it was in the boy's best interest. The mother believes the decision belongs to her son. She petitioned the High Court of Justice to intervene on the grounds that the rabbinical court did not have authority over whether parents circumcise their sons. Justice Yoram Danziger froze the ruling the day the petition was filed. The High Court then requested Attorney-General Yehuda Weinstein's opinion and on 2/11 he wrote that he believed the rabbinical court had exceeded its authority in intervening on the circumcision issue. The High Court ordered him to address the specific legal issues of this case in greater detail within 7 days, after which the other parties will have 7 days to respond. www.vosizneias.com 2/26/14.

SWEDEN

Eksjo – Police arrested a 36-year-old woman in connection with the illegal circumcision of two boys after receiving a phone call during which the boys could be heard screaming. The woman, believed to be a relative, is charged with suspicion of aggravated assault. www.upi.com 7/3/13.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, England – A former sacristan for the Knights of Malta, an ancient religious order, denied 19 charges relating to sexual offences against young boys and four charges of indecency with children dating from 1966 to 2011 when he appeared in court on 1/21/14. Vernon Quaintance, 70, is also the founder of Gilgal Society, which promotes circumcision. His job at the church gave him access to children, although he earlier had been dropped as photographer for the Latin Mass Society after concern about his involvement with websites advocating male circumcision that included graphic details. Charges also include indecent images of children ranging from level one to level five in severity, discovered at his home in 2011. *South London Press* 1/24/14.

UNITED STATES

Chicago, IL – A baby who suffered partial amputation of his penis during circumcision performed when he was 12 hours old was awarded a judgment of \$1,337,901.12, according to attorneys for the child's family. Daniel Burden, born at Northwestern Memorial's Prentice Women's Hospital, is now 5 years old. He was rushed to children's Memorial Hospital, where a pediatric urologist successfully re-attached the glans of his penis but the boy is at risk for altered nerve sensation. www.suntimes.com/, 5/29/13.

Columbia, SC – Adoptive parents are suing the SC Department of Social Services, social workers, and doctors for forcing their son, who was born with both male and female sex organs, to undergo sex-reassignment surgery when he was just 16-months old. Pam and Mark Crawford filed the first-of-its-kind lawsuit on behalf of their now 8-year-old son because they wanted to "put doctors on notice." The boy was identified as male until doctors determined he had ambiguous genitals, including both male and female internal reproductive structures. The lawsuit argues that doctors and the state violated substantive and procedural due process rights guaranteed by the 14th Amendment, and that doctors committed malpractice when they failed to obtain informed consent from the foster services caring for the boy. "It's become more and more difficult as his identity has become more clearly male," Pam Crawford explained. "The idea that mutilation has been done to him has become more and more real. There was no medical reason that this decision had to be made at that time. There was no threat to his life." She added, "I would have never made the decision to choose the gender either way." Southern Poverty Law Center attorney Alesdair Ittelson, who filed the lawsuit, said that the "case is about ensuring the safety of all children who do not have a voice." www.rawstory.com 5/14/13.

Brooklyn, NY – Rabbi Eliyahu Shain performed a bris on Benjamin Altman, 12/09, at NY University Medical Center's Pediatrics Associates of NY City, but Staci Altman, the boy's mother, says the mohel failed to recognize the boy had hypospadias, for which circumcision is contraindicated. The boy suffers "great physical pain and mental anguish and loss of enjoyment of life," the mother's lawsuit, filed in Kings County Superior Court, claims. www.courtsenews.com 12/5/13.

Pittsburgh, PA – Mordechai Rosenberg, a rabbi and mohel, circumcised a baby at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill on 4/28 and, according to a lawsuit, severed the baby's penis. The parents rushed their son to Children's Hospital for reconstructive microsurgery and leech therapy. The baby needed 6 blood transfusions and was hospitalized for nearly 2 months. There is no way to know yet if he'll make a complete recovery. <http://triblive.com/news> 12/18/20.

ARTICLES

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Androus, ZT. Critiquing circumcision: in search of a new paradigm for conceptualizing genital modification. *Global Discourse*, 2013. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/23269995.2013.813282>.

Geisheker, JV. The Completely Unregulated Practice of Male Circumcision: Human Rights' Abuse Enshrined in Law? Vol 2, No 1 (2013). <http://newmalestudies.com/OJS/index.php/nms/article/view/60>.

Kerlee, JC. Too Much Religious Freedom? Infants Infected With Herpes After Jewish Mohel Applies Oral Suction to Circumcised Penises. *Journal of Law and Health* Vol 9:297-330.

Shweder RA. The goose and the gander: the genital wars. *Global Discourse*, 2013. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/23269995.2013.811923>.

Svoboda JS. Promoting genital autonomy by exploring commonalities between male, female, intersex, and cosmetic female genital cutting. *Global Discourse*, 2013. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/23269995.2013.804757>.

Svoboda JS and Van Howe RS. Circumcision: A bioethical challenge. *Journal of Medical Ethics*. http://jme.jmj.com/content/early/2013/08/16/medethics-2013-01614.abstract/reply#medethics_el_16775.

Van Howe R. Infant male circumcision in the public square: applying the public reason of John Rawls. *Global Discourse*, 2013. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/23269995.2013.805515>.

Law Prohibiting Circumcision?

If the procedure is something that society does not want, and it's not intended to discriminate against Jews in particular, I think the law is perfectly valid.

—US Supreme Court Justice Scalia.

ANALGESIA EXPOSURE AND AUTISM

"The synchronous rises in autism/ASD prevalence and paracetamol (acetaminophen) use, as well as biologic plausibility have led to the hypothesis that paracetamol exposure may increase autism/ASD risk...[B]iological plausibility is provided by a growing body of experimental and clinical evidence linking paracetamol metabolism to pathways shown to be important in autism and related developmental abnormalities. Bauer AZ and Kriebel D. Prenatal and perinatal analgesic exposure and autism: an ecological link. *Environmental Health* 2013;12:41.

BURN TRAUMA DURING CIRCUMCISION

"...[W]e present three boys who sustained sever [sic] burn injuries during circumcision with RF [radiofrequency scalpel] method...the important complications of this technology such as burns should raise our attentions." Mohammadi AA, Jafari SMS, Abdollahi A. Risk of burn trauma during circumcision with radiofrequency scalpel: case report and review of literature. *Int J Burn Trauma* 2013;3(3)3:169-172.

COMPLICATIONS AFTER CIRCUMCISION



Excision of all penile skin during circumcision

"Our survey findings indicate that most physicians performing neonatal circumcisions in our community have received informal and unstructured training. This lack of formal instruction may explain the complications and unsatisfactory results witnessed in our pediatric urology practice. Many practitioners are not aware of the contraindications to neonatal circum-

cision and most non-surgeons perform the procedure without being able to handle common post-surgical complications." Demaria J, Abdulla A, Pemberton J, et al. Are physicians performing neonatal circumcision well-trained? *Can Urol Assoc J.* 2013 Jul;7(7-8):260-4.

"We sought to determine the incidence of revision circumcision at freestanding children's hospitals, and examine trends over time...Wide variation exists in rate increases among hospitals." Kokorowski, PJ, Routh JC, Hubert K, et al. Trends in Revision Circumcision a Pediatric Hospitals. *Clinical Pediatrics* 2013, doi:10.1177/00099228/3492878.

"Parents should be counselled and be required to provide informed consent that any health benefits of childhood circumcision do not outweigh the reported complication rate and that therefore they should weigh the health benefits against the risks in the light of their religious, cultural, and personal preferences." Thorup J, Thorup SC, Ifaoui IBR. Complication rate after circumcision in a paediatric surgical setting should not be neglected. *Dan Med J* 2013;60(8):A4681.

DERMATOLOGICAL COMPLICATIONS OF CIRCUMCISION

"...Late complications included penile skin bridge, glandular adhesion of remnant foreskin, concealed penis, and a penile epidermal inclusion cyst. Minor surgical procedures under local anaesthesia were performed." Tempark T, Wu T, Singer C, et al. Dermatological Complication of Circumcision: Lesson Learned from Cases in a Pediatric Dermatology Practice. *Pediatric Dermatology* 1-10, 2013. doi: 10.1111/pde.12140.

FORCED CIRCUMCISIONS

"This article documents the forced circumcision of men against their will, shows how evidence of forced circumcision has been downplayed and discounted, and outlines and discusses some measures that could help to reduce its prevalence." Glass M. Forced circumcision of men (abridged). *jme.bmj.com*, September 7, 2013.

"This article will examine forced non-therapeutic genital cutting (FNGC) through the lens of feminist theory and in relation to the concept of social justice in nursing...Nurses are positioned well to be at the forefront of this cause and have a clear ethical duty to advocate for the elimination of all forms of FNGC." Antinuk K. Forced genital cutting in North America: Feminist theory and nursing considerations. *Nursing Ethics*;20(6):723-728

HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE 1

"The association between Jewish ritual circumcision and genital herpes simplex virus type 1 infections has been well described. We report a case of genital herpes that first presented at the age of 2-1/2 years. We believe that the infection was acquired asymptotically through direct orogenital suction performed during circumcision in the newborn period. Yossepowitch O, et al. Penile Herpes Simplex Virus Type 1 Infection Presenting Two and a Half Years After Jewish Ritual Circumcision of an Infant. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* 2013

HYPOSPADIAS REPAIR

"A primarily retractile foreskin can be achieved in over 75% with less than 4% requiring a circumcision due to tightness. Distal location of hypospadias and retractility at the end of operation predicted success." Kallampallil J, Hennayake. Foreskin retractility following hypospadias repair with prepu-tioplasty – Medium term outcomes. *Journal of Pediatric Urology* (2013) xx, 1-6.

ISCHAEMIC GLANS AFTER DORSAL NERVE BLOCK

"We report an ischaemic penile glans following circumcision and a dorsal penile nerve block in a 9-year-old boy. Ischaemia of the glans penis is a rare complication associated with both circumcision and dorsal penile nerve blocks...We report the successful management of this complication using a caudal epidural block and also discuss technical aspects of penile nerve blocks." Kaplanian, S, Chambers NA, and Forsyth I. Caudal anaesthesia as a treatment for penile ischaemia following circumcision. *Anaesthesia*, 2007, 62:741-3.

MEDICAL ETHICS

"[N]on-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 RJL. The child's right to an open future: is the principle applicable to non-therapeutic circumcision? *J Med Ethics* 2013 Jul;39(7):436-8.

"The ancient practice of metzitzah b'peh, direct oral suction, is still practiced by ultra-Orthodox Jews as part of the religious rite of male newborn circumcision. [New York] City [is] requiring signed parental consent before oral suction, with parents being warned of the dangers of the practice.... An outright ban would be a better response to a practice that is dangerous to children, but might prove unconstitutional under New York State law." Davis DS, Ancient rites and new laws: how should we regulate religious circumcision of minors? *J Med Ethics* 2013 Jul;39(7):456-8.

"[T]he overall balance of opinion may be shifting toward one of general scepticism concerning circumcision—even within religious communities. Increasingly, individual Muslim and Jewish thinkers are managing to persuade their fellow faith practitioners that the involuntary ablation of children's foreskins is unnecessary for contemporary religious observance." Earp, BD. The ethics of infant male circumcision. *J Med Ethics* 2013 Jul;39(7):418-20.

"While the German court decision may not hold all the answers, it raises serious questions which need to be asked of religious groups. For this reason, it is an invaluable stimulus to debate." Johnson MT. Religious circumcision, invasive rites, neutrality and equality: bearing the burdens and consequences of belief. *J Med Ethics* 2013 Jul;39(7):450-5.

"Speculative gestures at hazily-considered 'levels' of 'expected pleasure'...fall flat in the face of what is actually known about the foreskin, including its protective, erogenous, and functional-mechanical properties. Any parental decision to remove this structure in its healthy state risks numerous adverse consequences for the child if not by organic harm as an infant, then as a man suffering from iatrogenic, sexual dysfunction. Lang DB. Circumcision, sexual dysfunction and the child's best interest: why the anatomical details matter. *J Med Ethics* 2013 Jul;39(7):429-43.

"[A]fter a resounding decision by a Cologne district court that non-therapeutic circumcision constitutes bodily assault, the German legislature responded by enacting a new statute expressly designed to permit male circumcision even outside of medical settings. We first criticise the normative foundations upon which such a legal concession seems to rest, and then analyse two major flaws in the new German law which we consider emblematic of the difficulty that any legal attempt to protect medically irrelevant genital cutting is bound to face." Merkel R, Putzke H. After Cologne: male circumcision and the law. Parental right, religious liberty or criminal assault? *J Med Ethics* 2013 Jul;39(7):444-9.

"Parental proxy 'consent' for newborn circumcision is invalid. Male circumcision also violates four core human rights

documents the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention Against Torture." Svoboda JS. Circumcision of male infants as a human rights violation. *J Med Ethics* 2013 Jul;39(7):469-74.

"The [AAP] policy statement and technical report suffer from several troubling deficiencies, ultimately undermining their credibility. These deficiencies include the exclusion of important topics and discussions, an incomplete and apparently partisan excursion through the medical literature, improper analysis of the available information, poorly documented and often inaccurate presentation of relevant findings, and conclusions that are not supported by the evidence given." Svoboda JS, Van Howe, RS. Out of step: fatal flaws in the latest AAP policy report on neonatal circumcision. *J Med Ethics* 2013 Jul;39(7):434-41.

"Instead of parental rights...parents have an obligation to protect their children's rights as well as to preserve the future options of those children so far as possible. Van Howe, RS. Infant circumcision: the last stand for the dead dogma of parental (sovereign) rights. *J Med Ethics* 2013 Jul;39(7):475-81.

PAIN IN INFANCY

"Early life pain alters neural circuits in the brain that regulate stress, suggesting pain experienced by infants who often do not receive analgesics while undergoing treatment may permanently alter future responses to anxiety, stress, and pain in adulthood." Victoria NC, Kiyoshi I, et al. Long-term dysregulation of brain corticotrophin and glucocorticoid receptors and stress reactivity by single early-life pain experiences in male and female rats. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.psyneuen.2013.08.013.

PENILE CARCINOMA

"Conservative treatment of penile squamous cell carcinoma in early stages do [sic] not seem to compromise the survival rate, so it may be advisable for this subset of patients." Pereira N, Viera R, et al. *An Bras Dermatol* 2013;88(5):844-6.

PENILE SENSITIVITY AFTER CIRCUMCISION

"The present study shows in a large cohort of men, based on self-assessment, that the foreskin has erogenous sensitivity. It is shown that the foreskin is more sensitive than the uncircumcised glans mucosa, which means that after circumcision genital sensitivity is lost." Bronselaer GA, Schober JM, Meyer-Bahlburg, HFL, et al. Male circumcision decreases penile sensitivity as measured in a large cohort. *BJU International* 2013 doi:10.1111/j.1464-410X.2012.11761x.

PREMATURE EJACULATION

"Circumcision during adulthood does not adversely affect ejaculatory function; it may slightly improve [it]. However, it could not be interpreted as a justification for circumcision in men with premature ejaculation (PE)." Alp BF, et al. Does circumcision have a relationship with ejaculation time?

Medical Literature Highlights (cont.)

Premature ejaculation evaluated using new diagnostic tools. Intl Impot Res. 2014 Jan 1, doi:10.1038/ijir.2013.47.

"We aimed to evaluate possible associations of circumcision with several sexual dysfunctions and to identify predictors for the development of these outcomes post-operatively... In our study there was a significant increase in ED with circumcision....circumcision was associated with nontrivial de

novo sexual dysfunctions, particularly ED and DO. This should prompt a cautious counselling about the sexual implications of this surgical procedure in this subset of patients."

Dias, J, Freitas R, Amorim R, et al. Adult circumcision and male sexual health: a retrospective analysis. *Andrologia* 2013, xx, 1-6.

World News

AFRICA

Botswana - Deborah Retief Memorial Hospital Superintendent, Dr. Motlalepula Powe, told a council meeting there has been a sharp increase in patients who test HIV-positive after circumcision although they had been HIV-negative before the operation. She encouraged continued use of condoms after circumcision. www.gabzfm.com 9/26/13.

Kenya - The prevalence of HIV and AIDS rose in Nyanza and Central Provinces, according to the Kenya AIDS Indicative Survey released by the Health Cabinet Secretary James Macharia, in spite of an aggressive circumcision campaign to reduce new infections in the region. Many men believe they cannot be infected by HIV after being circumcised and, instead of using condoms, proven to be 98% effective and 95 times more cost effective than circumcision, are exacerbating the pandemic. www.standardmedia.co.ke 9/11/13.

Kenya - Police in Eldoret launched a manhunt for six suspects and a medical practitioner who forcefully circumcised Jua Kali, 21, at a private clinic after he was kidnapped and drugged by men he knew. www.kenyan-post.com 1/28/14.

Sudan - UN organizations working to stop FGM brainstormed a campaign to end the practice in Sudan. Saleema, a word that translates to "complete" was born. The campaign's media outreach, opening a dialogue about a once-taboo subject in Sudan, has encouraged more than 600 communities to pledge to boycott the practice. <http://womensnews.org> 8/19/13.

South Africa - Initiation ceremonies have led to the deaths of 60 young men and hospitalization of hundreds since May. Hospitals report they don't have enough beds to deal with the increasing demand for medical treatment. www.enca.com 7/713.

"They killed my child," said Reggie Mokalapa, whose 4-year-old son was taken off life-support a week after his circumcision. The boy, Gugulethu, whose heart stopped after circumcision, was pronounced brain dead, having never awakened from the anesthesia. www.iol.co.za 8/16/13.

The Film and Publication Board in Johannesburg ruled that a website, ulwaluko.co.za, run by Dutch doctor, Dingeman Rijken, has the right to publish graphic images of botched traditional circumcisions, saying it is a "bona fide scientific publication with great educative value." Photographs on the site show deformities, wounds, infections, and amputations. Rijken worked in the Eastern Cape in 2012 and felt he had to "lift the veil of secrecy." www.iol.co.za 2/2/14.

Uganda - Patrick Izimba, 44, lost his penis to a botched circumcision and is sorry he read a sign about free circumcision, which he says "cost me my life....Pain killers have become my daily bread because, if I do not take them, I cannot sleep..." A catheter connected to his bladder allows urine to flow out. Dr. Francis Kakooza, an employee of Medik Medical Centre, performed the circumcision after spraying something on Izima's nose. When Izima awoke, three hours later, his penis was stiff and bandaged. On the third day, his penis was still stiff, and the skin had turned dark, and it had begun to peel off. Police are investigating. www.newvision.co.ug 7/16/13.

ARABIA

Saudi - A doctor accidentally cut off the tip of the penis of an 18-day-old Saudi boy during circumcision. He tried to attach the severed part but the bleeding persisted and the baby continued to scream. A pediatric surgeon stopped the bleeding and restored the severed part. www.emirates247.com 11/14/13.

AUSTRALIA

Canberra, ACT - The Parliament of Australia has issued a List of Recommendations on the involuntary or coerced sterilization of intersex people in Australia. Recommendation 1: "The committee recommends that governments and other organisations use the term 'intersex' and not use the term 'disorders of sexual development.'" Recommendation 6: "The committee recommends that all proposed intersex medical interventions for children and adults without the capacity to consent require authorisation from a civil and administrative tribunal or the Family Court." www.aph.gov.au 11/7/2013.

CANADA

The Canadian Foreskin Awareness Project (CFAW) picketed Oprah in Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal, and Hamilton after she endorsed SkinMedica's TNS Recovery Complex, an anti-aging cream that contains cells from human foreskin. CFAW's founder, Glen Callender, asked, "How would Oprah respond if a skin cream for men hit the market that was made using cells from the genitalia of little girls? I think she would be absolutely disgusted and appalled, and rightly so!" The cream retails for \$165 for less than an ounce. www.huffingtonpost.com 4/12/13.

EGYPT

Cairo – Suhair al-Bata'a, 13, died of shock trauma that caused a sharp drop in her blood pressure during circumcision by a doctor in Daqahlia. Her family filed a police complaint, accusing the doctor of causing her death. The doctor was said to have offered the family 20,000 Egyptian pounds (about \$2900) to keep quiet about the incident. www.mareeg.com 6/12/13.

FRANCE

Strasbourg – On 1/28/14, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held a debate in accordance with last year's resolution, recognizing circumcision as a violation of bodily integrity and calling for public discussion on the matter. Speakers included medical experts, religious leaders, and genital integrity activists, including Victor Schonfeld from England, whose film, *It's a Boy*, was screened, and Ronald Goldman, PhD, author of *Circumcision: The Hidden Trauma* and *Questioning Circumcision: A Jewish Perspective* and founder of the Circumcision Resource Center in Boston, MA, USA. A second film, produced by the Israeli government, was also shown. Marlene Rupprecht began the discussion by saying that "Children's rights are human rights. One basic right is physical integrity of a human being." She closed the debate stating, "It is the rights of the child that are foremost in our minds."

GERMANY

Berlin – A new medical facility, the Desert Flower Center, seeks to help FGM survivors by offering comprehensive treatment in Europe. One woman hopes that, if doctors rebuild her genitalia, sex will be easier and more enjoyable for her. Another fears her husband won't approve and hasn't gone to the center. Created by former Somali supermodel, Waris Dirie, the center is located inside a Berlin hospital specializing in women's health care. An estimated 24,000 FGM survivors are living in Germany. www.npr.org 1/2/14.

Germany has become Europe's first country to allow babies with characteristics of both sexes to be registered as neither male nor female. Parents are now allowed to leave the gender blank on birth certificates, in effect creating a new category of "indeterminate sex." This removes pressure on parents to make quick decisions on sex assignment surgery. One in 2,000 people have characteristics of both sexes. www.bbc.co.uk 11/3/13.

INDIA

Shillong – A magisterial inquiry into the ritual circumcision of 22 tribal boys at a state-run super-specialty hospital has declared it illegal. The boys were circumcised at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Science on October 4, 5, and 6, without prior parental consent. A youth organization raised concern, alleging misuse of power by a senior doctor for conducting "religious rituals" at the Institute. The state government seeks punitive action

for the secretary of the orphanage, Jursheed Thabah, for failing to consult the parents. <http://daily.bhaskar.com> 12/6/13.

INDONESIA

Jakarta – Police Day is celebrated by holding a mass circumcision, but, dozens of boys wearing sarongs and black velvet caps looked worried, some petrified, while sitting in the waiting room at the police station. Some were sobbing on their mother's laps while others fled, with or without their families, after hearing the screams of their friends. www.themalaysianinsider.com 6/30/13.

ISRAEL

Holon – Thirty minutes after circumcision, a baby stopped breathing and was rushed to Wolfson Medical Center, where he died eight days later. The family refused an autopsy. www.israelhayom.com 6/10/13.

Jerusalem – An 8-day-old baby was admitted to Hadassah Mount Scopus Hospital with heavy bleeding following ritual circumcision. The baby's condition was described as stable. www.israelnationalnews.com 2/6/14.

Rabbi Moshe Morsiano, chair of the Division of Circumcision for the Chief Rabinat of Israel, backs the controversial metzitzah b'peh, sucking blood from the baby's penis after circumcision, saying there is no justification for avoiding metzitzah b'peh "unless the mohel has a sore in his mouth, or some infectious disease." www.forward.com 4/24/13.

MEXICO

Hermosillo – Parents in the state of Sonora (across the border from AZ) will no longer be allowed to name their children "Facebook," "Circumcision," or 59 other now banned given names to protect children from being bullied. Each name has been found at least once in state registries. AP 2/12/14.

SCOTLAND

A BBC investigation revealed concerns that young girls are being taken to Scotland to undergo FGM because the country is seen as a "soft touch." Girls living in Glasgow and Edinburgh have undergone FGM in Scotland and the problem is increasing. The equalities minister said anyone aware of FGM has a duty to report it. People who aid or carry out the procedure, either in Scotland or abroad, face up to 14 years imprisonment. UK legislation criminalized FGM in 1985, but there have been no prosecutions. Scotland made it illegal in 2005 to take girls abroad for circumcision. www.bbc.co.uk 11/15/13.

SWITZERLAND

Geneva – The PrePex, a non-surgical device that relies on a rubber band, is the only adult circumcision method to gain WHO acceptance. The WHO's goal is to circumcise 20 million African males by 2015. www.nyt.com 6/1/13.

UNITED KINGDOM



Patrick Smythe, Richard Duncker, Peter Ball, and Tony Scott of Men Do Complain, demonstrate in London, 19 November, International Men's Day.

London – Young men brought up in London oppose FGM, even if their ethnic communities practice it, according to the FGM Special Initiative, researchers tracking changing attitudes. Many men seek “uncut” wives. Grandmothers have less influence now and religious workers are helping educate older men about the harm of FGM. *Evening Standard* 6/3/13.

NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) launched a helpline to protect children from FGM after research found that more than 1700 victims were referred to specialist clinics in the past two years. Britain has 65,000 victims of FGM and another 30,000 girls are at risk. Efua Dorkenoo, advocacy director of the FGM Programme at Equality Now, which is providing training for the helpline, said, “For the first time in this country, we are giving a voice to the young people from these communities who have not been able to speak out. The government, the police, and health professionals have been frightened, and this is bringing it out into the open, at last.” *www.guardian.co.uk* 6/24/13.

A 7-year-old girl was treated by NHS doctors following circumcision. She is the youngest victim NHS has seen in the past two years. More than 70 women and girls seek treatment every month. The actual figure is probably more but not everyone comes forward seeking help. Instead, they suffer in silence. *Evening Standard* 6/24/13.

A London survivor of FGM, Leyla Hussein, 32, conducted an experiment to see “how crazy political correctness has become” but was left in tears at the end of her study. Approaching shoppers with her fake petition supporting FGM, she said she wanted to protect her “culture, tradition, and rights.” In just 30 minutes, 19 people signed it, some saying they believe FGM is wrong but, because it was her culture, they would sign. Only one person refused. I kept using the word “mutilation.” “How can anyone think that’s okay?” *Huff Post* 10/28/13.

Intersex UK, founded by Holly Greenberry, Sarah Graham, Dawn Vago and Elizabeth Jo Roberts, is calling on the government to review treatment of intersex people. Recommendations include the option to leave blank the sex on British birth certificates, measures to protect babies or young people from irreversible and non-consensual treatment and surgery, better emotional support, and increased

education. “We are positive role models, and professional and intelligent women, who want to represent the needs of children so that the problems we experienced aren’t replicated,” co-founder Greenberry said. This year, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture condemned non-consensual surgery on children to “fix their sex,” saying it could cause “permanent, irreversible infertility and severe mental suffering.” *www.independent.co.uk* 12/8/13.

UNITED STATES

Anchorage, AK – Alaska Regional Hospital charges \$2,110 for a circumcision, while Providence Hospital charges \$235. Those are charges are on top of the doctor’s bill.

Atlanta, GA – According to new data released by the CDC, there were 19.7 million new venereal infections in the US in 2008, bringing the total number of existing sexually transmitted infections at that time to 110,197,000. *cnsnews.com* 3/27/13.

Brooklyn, NY – The Clinton Foundation Millennium Network event, featuring Bill Clinton, Chelsea Clinton, and actor Ed Norton, was disrupted when a whistle blew and protestors from Intaction, stood up and chanted, “Stop exploiting Africans; circumcision does not stop AIDS!” The Clinton Foundation funds the “circumcision-to-prevent-AIDS” agenda. Intaction calls African circumcision campaigns exploitative and racist health policies. *www.hearldonline.com* 3/4/13.

New York, NY – Two infant boys contracted herpes with one testing positive for HIV-1 following metzitzah b’peh. The parents had not signed a recently mandated city consent form authorizing the mohel to use metzitzah b’peh, the controversial procedure that has caused 14 cases of herpes since 11/2000, resulting in two deaths, brain damage, and other maladies of babies in New York. One mother said the mohel did not ask for her permission. Rabbi Hershel Schacter has asked if some NY City hospitals and the Department of Health are suppressing disclosure of even more of these cases. *http://forward.com* 4/5/13.

Cincinnati, OH – Dozens of intactivists joined Intact



Amy Callan, Christopher Maurer, Shelton Walden, Georganne Chapin, Dan Bollinger, and Marilyn Milos at site of protest.

America’s Georganne Chapin in October to protest Good Samaritan Hospital’s experimentation on normal bodies of newborn boys to determine which circumcision device causes less bleeding and less pain. The study is cruel, unscientific, immoral, and inhumane. The hospital response read, “At Good Samaritan Hospital it is understood that patient care, education, and research respect and support the total good of the patient and uphold the sanctity of human life and the principles

of Catholic teaching." Hospital officials evidently do not understand the pain, trauma, and harm of circumcision nor have they read Article 5 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child or Item 2297 of the Catholic Catechism, the latter of which says, "Respect for bodily integrity: Except when performed for strictly therapeutic medical reasons, directly intended amputations, mutilations, and sterilizations performed on innocent persons are against the moral law."

Kew Gardens, NY – Members of Intaction, picketed the home of Susan Blank, MD, chairperson of the 2013 AAP Task Force on Circumcision. Little mention was made of either harm or human rights in the AAP Report. "No man ever consented to be circumcised as an infant, yet they have had to live with the consequences all of their lives, said Intaction Executive Director, Anthony Losquadro. Michael Huebner added, "Babies have a human right to stay the way nature intended. If they want to be circumcised later in life, that should be their choice. www.prweb.com 11/19/13.

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NOCIRC, Intact America,
and the Sexpo Foundation**

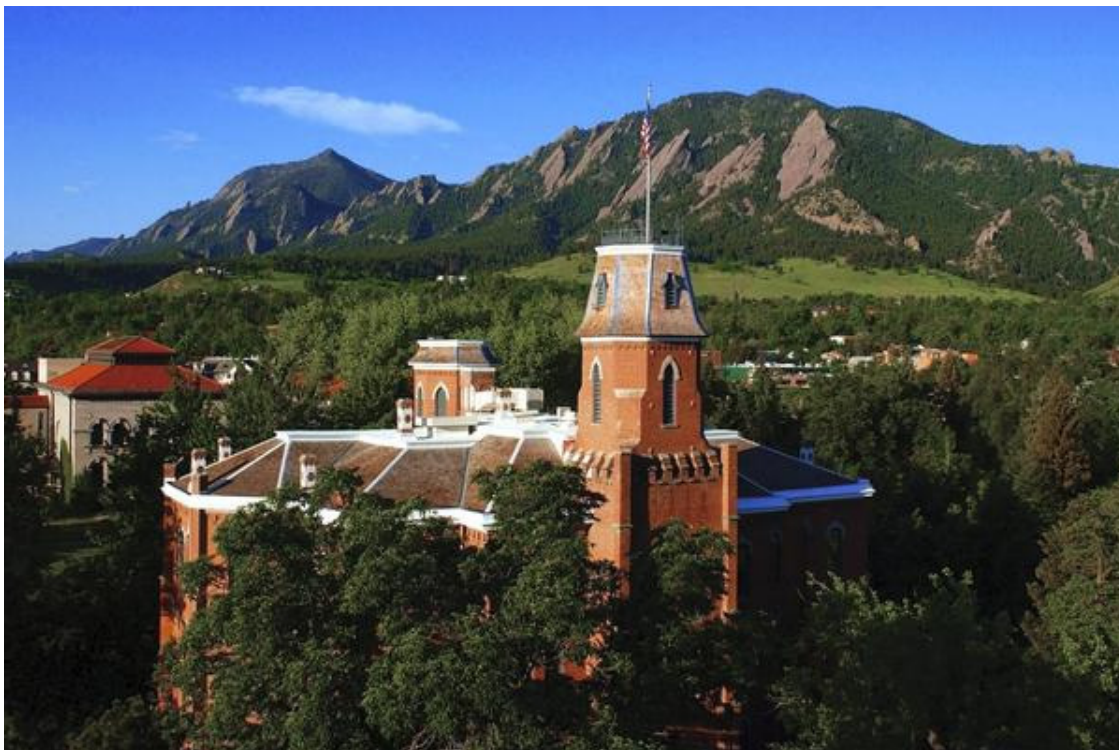
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"Victorious Babies" by Alex Steelsmith

Announcements

21st Annual Demonstration/March
Against Infant Circumcision, US Capitol,
2014 Genital Integrity Awareness Week,
March 24-30. See www.sicsociety.org.

Introducing:



The website for
this organization is
being constructed.

Cologne, Germany – MOGIS e.V. (an organization founded in 2009 to represent victims of sexual child abuse) and Pro-familia Nordrhein-Westfalen (Germany's largest sexual education society) are hosting Genitale Autonomie, from 1030 - 1730 on May 6, for an open discussion about MGM. MOGIS e.V. is holding the 2nd Anniversary of the Cologne Judgment on Worldwide Day of Genital Autonomy on 7 May 2014. For more information, see <http://genitale-selbstbestimmung.de/english-2014/>.

Great Sex, Naturally authors Dr. Laurie Steelsmith and Alex Steelsmith are offering 25 signed copies of their book for a donation of \$25 to NOCIRC. Send your donation to NOCIRC, PO Box 2512, San Anselmo, CA 94979, USA.

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Informative Websites, Blogs, & YouTube Sites

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

Association contre la Mutilation des Enfants
<http://ame.enfant.org.free.fr/infos.html>

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

Barefoot Intactivist

www.barefootintactivist.com

Bay Area Intactivists

bayareaintactivists.org

Beyond the Bris

www.beyondthebris.com/

Bonobo3D

www.youtube.com/bonobo3d

Catholics Against Circumcision

www.catholicsagainstcircumcision.org/

Celebrants of Brit Shalom

www.circumstitions.com/Jewish-shalom.html

Circumcision Decision Maker

www.circumcisiondecisionmaker.com

Canadian Foreskin Awareness Project

www.can-fap.net

Circumcision and HIV

www.dontgetstuck.wordpress.com
www.circumcisionandhiv.com

Circumcision Information and Resource Pages

www.cirp.org

Circumcision Information Australia

www.circinfo.org

Circumcision Resource Center

www.circumcision.org

Coexist Initiative

www.coexistkenya.com

Doctors Opposing Circumcision

www.doctorsopposingcircumcision.org

Genital Autonomy

www.genitalautonomy.org

Genital Integrity through Regenerative Medicine

www.foregen.org

Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

www.circumcisionharm.org/

History of Circumcision

www.historyofcircumcision.net/

Intact America

www.IntactAmerica.org

IntactAmerica.wordpress.com

www.youtube.com/intactamerica

Intact Denmark

www.intactdenmark.wordpress.com/
Intaction

Intaction

www.intaction.org

Intactivism Pages

www.circumstitions.com

Intact Network

www.intactnetwork.org/

Jews Against Circumcision

www.jewsagainstcircumcision.org

Lucky Stiff

www.luckstiff.org

MGM Bill to End MGM in the US

www.mgmbill.org

Men Do Complain

www.mendocomplain.com

NOCIRC

www.nocirc.org

www.youtube.com/nocirc

NOCIRC of Norway

www.nocirc.no/

NOCIRC of South Africa

www.nocirc-sa.co.za/

NOCIRC of South Korea

www.pop119.com

NOHARM (National Organization to Halt the Routine Mutilation of Males)

www.noharm.org

NORM (National Organization of Restoring Men)

www.norm.org

NORM-UK

www.norm-uk.org

Nurses for the Rights of the Child

www.nurses.cirp.org

Peaceful Parenting

www.drmama.org

Taylor's Ridged Band

<http://research.cirp.org>

The Whole Network

www.wholenetwork.org

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