

Circumcision Reduces Sexual Satisfaction

A South Korean research team found that there is decreased masturbatory pleasure and sexual enjoyment after circumcision, indicating that adult circumcision adversely affects sexual function in many men (see page 4).

Penile Touch-Test Sensitivity Study

The recently-conducted Penile Touch-Test Sensitivity Study has been accepted for publication by a peer-review journal. Publication of the important findings will be announced at www.nocirc.org.

Male Circumcision May Not Protect Against HIV

A study presented at the 16th International AIDS Conference examined male circumcision and HIV rates in eight Sub-Saharan African countries and contradicts research that suggests male circumcision protects against HIV. "The evidence is inconclusive," said Dr. Vinod Mishra. "We're just questioning that push," he said of the optimism expressed by pro-circumcision researchers. "If anything, the correlation goes the other way." In Lesotho, for example, 23.4% circumcised and 15.4% intact men were HIV positive. When adjusted for sociodemographic and behavioral factors, a protective effect was *not* statistically significant in any country.

Ugandan President Denounces HIV Study

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni condemned the Kenya and Uganda study that allegedly shows male circumcision reduces HIV risk. He told medical students that there are many confusing messages. "One of them is that, if you are circumcised, you are less likely to catch AIDS, even if you behave recklessly. Now what sort of message is that?" Uganda's success in curbing the spread of AIDS from 30% to 6% in the 1990s was done by promoting abstinence, safe sex, and condom use. Recent failure of the program is blamed on right-wing Christian groups, most from the US, promoting abstinence at the expense of condoms. Museveni said the news is irresponsible and safe sex is the way the situation should be handled.

NY Fails to Protect Babies' Health

New York health officials and orthodox rabbis reached an agreement on a controversial procedure, in which a circumciser sucks blood from a baby's penis. The controversy began after a mohel's mouth led to herpes contamination of four infants, one died. Mohels who perform "metzitzah b'peh" must swab their mouths with an alcohol wipe and rinse with mouthwash that contains at least 25% alcohol, a regime that experts say will not protect infants. Additional babies allegedly contracted herpes since the controversy began.

Judges Protect Boys' Rights

Circuit Judge Jordan Kaplan issued an injunction on October 24 against circumcision for a 9-year-old Chicago boy, valid until the boy's 18th birthday. While the mother wanted her son circumcised, the father did not. "**The injury to the child as a result of an unnecessary circumcision would be irreversible,**" Judge Kaplan wrote. California judges protected the genital integrity rights of a 24-month-old and an unborn boy after their fathers filed suit in their son's behalf.

Atlanta Father Found Guilty of Daughter's FGM

Khalid Adem was found guilty on 11/1 of aggravated battery and cruelty for the 2001 cutting of the genitals of his 2-year-old daughter. He received a 10-year-prison sentence and 5 years probation. Arrested in 2003, his is the first documented case of FGM on a minor in the US. A law against FGM was passed after Adem was arrested.

Finland Court Charges Mother for Circumcision of Son

Finland's first court ruling on male circumcision was handed down for a Muslim mother who had her 4-year-old son circumcised. Local prosecutor Jouko Nurminen said, "There is a perception in Finland that only girls' circumcisions are banned by law. There is no specific legislation about them; both types are illegal under the same criminal law. After all, in both procedures, part of healthy genitalia is removed without medical foundation or competent consent." The court noted that even a long religious tradition does *not* justify protecting the bodily inviolability of boys to a lesser degree than that of girls and found the mother's action illegal.

Canadian Government Stopped Reimbursing Routine Circumcision

Public Service Health Care Plan, Canada's largest federal employee health plan, stopped reimbursing routine circumcision of newborns, effective 9/05/06. Payments ended because no provincial/territorial health plan covers the procedure. In 2005, Canada's circumcision rate, down 60% since 1996, is 9.2%.

BC Health Pays to Restore Man's Foreskin

Dr. Paul Tinari is the first Canadian to have healthcare-funded foreskin restoration. Tinari describes being held down by Catholic priests when he was 8-years-old and circumcised, "a routine form of punishment" for masturbation. Tinari considers the restorative surgery a success, ending the problems caused by circumcision.

Letter from the Editor

It's been an exciting and eventful year! The 9th International Symposium on Circumcision, Genital Integrity, and Human Rights, held at the beautiful University of Washington in Seattle, brought together presenters and participants from more than a dozen countries. Various harmful traditional practices were addressed, as was the work being done worldwide to eradicate them.

Our symposium was held shortly after the AIDS conference in Toronto, and we addressed the issue, too. While circumcision is being touted as a way to stop the spread of AIDS in Africa, HIV/AIDS has successfully been curbed in Thailand, Senegal, and Eastern Uganda with aggressive educational campaigns about the danger of AIDS, the need for safe sex, and the importance of condom use. In Thailand, the government's program of "100% condom use, 100% of the time," providing free condoms for everyone, has been successful *without* circumcision, which is *not* cost-effective and has known risks. Reduced penile sensation and a false sense of security after circumcision could easily exacerbate the spread of HIV/AIDS by decreasing condom use. Circumcision hasn't prevented HIV in the USA, Israel, or Muslim countries. Circumcision is *not* promoted in Scandinavia because education is enough; so why isn't it enough in Africa? HIV policy should focus on what's been shown to work.

Daniel Halperin, an HIV specialist at Harvard's Center for Population and Development, in a recent interview, said about circumcision, "It prevents STDs, it's seen as cleaner, sex is better, women like it..." In truth, circumcised men are at *greater* risk of some STDs. Cleaner than what? What makes Halperin think sex is better with or that women prefer circumcised partners? Personal bias has no place in scientific discussion. Fortunately, there is a growing tide of skepticism to recent research findings and seemingly biased researchers who promote circumcision. The UN warns that male circumcision should never pre-empt other preventive measures. Sadly, Africans, coerced to circumcise, ultimately will learn circumcision does *not* prevent HIV/AIDS. See the Doctors Opposing Circumcision HIV Statement: www.doctorsopposingcircumcision.org/info/HIVStatement.html.

Symposium participants signed a petition encouraging the Gates Foundation to support public health efforts that have proven

effective in AIDS prevention, including education, condom use, and aggressive research toward vaccine development. At the AIDS Vaccine 2006 Conference, reports were promising. A Swedish HIV vaccine study produced good results. More than 90% of the subjects in Phase I trials developed an immune response to HIV. The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative is tracking the progress of 32 clinical trials at www.iavi.org.

Our Padua symposium book, *Bodily Integrity and the Politics of Circumcision: Culture, Controversy, and Change*, was published in 2006 by Springer Publishing Company. It is available from NOCIRC (see page 7).

NOCIRC's booth at the American Academy of Pediatrics allowed us to put information into the hands of pediatricians and gave us an opportunity to talk with them. Many physicians from both inside and outside the US are horrified that a "civilized" country routinely circumcises babies, and they promised to speak to their colleagues in defense of babies. Mexican pediatricians, working to end circumcision in their country, were eager to have our Spanish pamphlets. Pediatric urologists, who see botched results, seemed unanimously against circumcision.

Our American Baby ad brings thousands of visitors to our website each time it's published, and those without access to the Internet order information by telephone. The ad reflects our 30-second Public Service Announcement (see page 6). If it's not being aired on your public access station, please ask us about getting a copy for that purpose.

Several court cases served children well this year, and a number of wrongful circumcision lawsuits were settled out of court. Ethical judges now are acknowledging the child's right to his own body, and physicians and parents are being held to this human rights standard.

Thank you for helping support our projects and making 2006 such a successful year. We couldn't have done it without you! Your tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated!



9th International Symposium on Circumcision, Genital Integrity and Human Rights

presented

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Robert Darby, PhD Leonard B. Glick, MD, PhD

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

Gary Burlingame W. Keith C. Morgan, MD John Sawkey

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Dan Bollinger John Geisheker George Hill

Laws, Lawsuits, and Legislation

Cultural and religious bias should not supersede the Hippocratic Oath or the law.

– David Smith, Manager, Norm-UK

AFRICA

Dakar – Women representing 52 Senegalese and seven Malian villages have issued a public declaration to stop female genital mutilation (FGM) and arranged and/or early marriages, previously practiced in their localities. *Angola Press*, 3/15/06.

Kenya – A couple was convicted of subjecting their 10-year-old daughter to FGM and early marriage. The court gave the couple, 58-year-old Borana Moyare and her 78-year-old husband Remoiyarge Lemarkai, the option of paying a fine or serving a six-month jail sentence. Unable to pay the fine, the couple went to prison. Charged with “defilement,” Lesati Lesane, the 30-year-old man who married the young girl, also went to prison. *East African Standard*, 4/7/06.

FINLAND

Helsingin Sanomat – Finland outlawed male circumcision of children by way of a judicial court decision (see page 1). 4/8/06.

GERMANY

Bonn – After Karl Spandl, 50, undergoing surgery for an abscess on his penis, was circumcised, he said: “I never said they could take that. And now I have almost no feeling in the tip. My sex life has been totally ruined.” He is asking £14,000 from his surgeon to pay for another surgery to rebuild his foreskin. *ananova.com/news*, 1/19/07.

Dusseldorf – A 77-year-old Turkish national who performed ritual circumcisions on seven boys was convicted of causing dangerous bodily harm and fined Euros 2,100. Circumcision is allowed in Germany only for medical reasons and can be performed only by surgeons. Traditional Turkish Muslims practice circumcision on boys aged 6 to 11 as a manhood initiation ritual. *Sapa-dpa Independent OnLine*, 10/17/06.

Rausdorf – Ten of the highest-ranked scholars from all over the world met at Azhar University under the patronage of the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Prof. Dr. Ali Goma’a. After listening to experts from Egypt, Ethiopia, and Germany, they classified FGM as punishable aggression and a crime against humanity. The custom no longer can be practiced by Muslims. This decision now must be broadcast in the 33 affected countries. 12/04/06.

JAPAN

Sakai, Osaka – Shizue Tamura, 27, accused of cutting off her 4-month-old son’s “private parts” in 2004, was ordered to 5 years behind bars. “The way she committed the crime was unprecedented, inhumane, and cruel,” said Judge Masahir Hosoi. The boy was left with severe injuries and serious after-effects. *Mainichi Daily News*, 11/30/06.

MOROCCO

Fez – The Court of First Instance of Fez sentenced a medical staff to one year imprisonment for the circumcision death of 22-year-old Bogui Nimba Josue Arthur Privat, who wanted to convert to Islam. He allegedly was required to be circumcised. *Morro Times*, 7/30/06.

SOUTH AFRICA

The National Assembly from Parliament passed the Children’s Bill, 1/11/06, which states, under “Social, cultural and religious practices,” Clause 12:

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

SWEDEN

Stockholm – A Somali man was indicted for allegedly forcing FGM on his daughter, said prosecutor, Agneta Henrikson. This is the first time since the 1982 law banning FGM went into effect that such charges were made in Sweden. The 41-year-old man, was arrested on suspicion of having his daughter, then 13, circumcised during a visit to Mogadishu. Henrikson said: “He decided the girl should be circumcised and, with another person, kept firm hold of her while a circumciser performed the operation.” Swedish law prohibits children to be taken abroad for FGM. Charges were based on a medical examination and statements from the girl. *News24.com*, 07/06/2006.

UNITED STATES

Atlanta, GA – An Ethiopian immigrant was convicted of the FGM of his 2-year-old daughter and sentenced to 10 years in prison in what is believed to be the first such criminal case in the US (see page 1). *AP*, 11/01/06.

Ventura, CA – A Ventura County Superior Court Judge ordered: “Petitioner’s [father’s] request that Respondent [mother] is restrained and enjoined from causing the minor child to be circumcised is granted. Accordingly, the minor child shall not be circumcised. This order is made without prejudice.” Case Number SD 034125, filed 10/31/06.

Medical Literature Highlights

"Do...potential health benefits mean that all boys should be circumcised? No... It is important that families be aware of the risks of circumcision and practitioners be aware of the ethical arguments against routine circumcision. Furthermore, since it is a cosmetic procedure, the cost of circumcision should be paid out of pocket rather than by insurance company or by the public in cases of Medicaid." Jack, S. Elder, Section Editor, *The Journal of Urology*, November 2006.

EFFECT OF CIRCUMCISION ON SEXUALITY

"There was a decrease in masturbatory pleasure and sexual enjoyment after circumcision, indicating that adult circumcision adversely affects sexual function in many men, possibly because of complications of the surgery and a loss of nerve endings." DaiSik Kim and Myung-Geol Pang. The effect of male circumcision on sexuality. *BJU International Online Early*, 12/06.

CIRCUMCISION COMPLICATIONS

Epidemiology of complications of male circumcision in Ibadan, Nigeria. Linus I. Okeke, Adanze A. Asinobi and Odunayo S Ikuerowo. *BMC Urology* 2006, 6:21.

"Circumcision rates in England continued to fall up until 2000, particularly in those aged under 5 years, in whom pathological phimosis is rare. The circumcision rate remains five times higher than the reported incidence of phimosis." Cathcart P, Nuttall M, van der Meulen J, Emberton M, Kenny SE. Trends in paediatric circumcision and its complications in England between 1997 and 2003. *British Journal of Surgery*, 2006 Jul;93(7),885-890.

MALE FRAGILITY

The human male is, on most measures, more vulnerable than the female. Part of the explanation is the biological fragility of the male fetus, which is little understood and not widely known. A typical attitude to boys is that they are, or must be made, more resilient than girls. This adds "social insult to biological injury." Culture and class make a difference to the health and survival of boys. The data presented here have implications for the clinical management of male patients as well as for the upbringing of boys. William H. James and Ian Banks. The fragile male. *BMJ* 2001;322:617.

PAIN

"[T]he percentage of training programs that teach effective analgesia for neonatal circumcision increased dramatically since the time of the previous data collection...[however] it seems training programs may not consistently use effective analgesia for neonatal circumcision." Daniel Yawman, MD, MPH, Cynthia R. Howard, MD, MPH, Peggy Auinge, MS, Lynn C. Garfununkel, MD, Marjorie Allan, BS, and Michael Weitzman, MD. Pain Relief for Neonatal Circumcision: A Follow-up of Residency Training Practices. *Ambulatory Pediatrics* 6(4):210-214, July 2006.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

Circumcision Status and Risk of Sexually Transmitted Infection in Young Adult Males: An Analysis of a Longitudinal Birth Cohort. David M. Fergusson, et al. *Pediatrics* 2006;118-1971-1977. [The study's small cohort and its findings, contrary to three larger studies, generated criticism and concern from peer reviewers. See <http://pediatrics.appublications.org/cgi/eletters/118/5/1971#4969>.]

SMEGMA

"Assertions that smegma is carcinogenic cannot be justified on scientific grounds." RS Van Howe, FM Hodges. The carcinogenicity of smegma: debunking a myth. *JEADV* 2006; 20:1046-1054.

STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS THREAT

Community-acquired methicillin-resistant *S aureus* is a substantial and increasing proportion of *S aureus* infections in previously healthy neonates. Male infants 7 to 12 days of age are affected most often. Regine M. Fortunov, MD, Kristina G. Hulten, PhD, Wendy A. Hammerman, RN, Edward O. Mason, Jr, PhD, and Sheldon L. Kaplan, MD. Community-Acquired *Staphylococcus aureus* Infections in Term and Near-Term Previously Healthy Neonates. *Pediatrics* 2006;118(3):874-881.

Outbreaks of methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* were recently reported in newborns at three major urban centers. Boys were disproportionately infected, and circumcision is a possible explanation. Robert S. Van Howe, MD, MS, FAAP, and William Lane M. Robson, MD, FRCPC, FRCP(Glasg). The Possible Role of Circumcision in Newborn Outbreaks of Community-Associated Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Clinical Pediatrics*, Volume 46, 2007.

World News

AFRICA

Algeria - Dr. Djamel-Eddine Oulmane, president of L'Association Primage, a national health promotion organization, warned of the dangers associated with traditional mass circumcisions, which increases the risk of

"complications, mutilations and irreversible accidents." *La Tribune (Algiers)*, 10/18/06.

Ethiopia - Hundreds of people in Addis Ababa protested in the streets, calling for a retrial of Khalid Adem, an Ethiopian sentenced in the US for circumcising his daughter. During the trial, Khalid and the victim's

mother blamed each other for the circumcision (see page 1). *Reuters*, 11/18/06.

Kenya – A 12-year-old girl bled to death after she was circumcised, according to District Officer Esther Ngatia, who said, “Since they know that circumcision has been outlawed...they are now doing it in secrecy.” The traditional surgeon fled after the incident. *www.nationmedia.com*, 2006.

Nairobi – Research in Kenya indicates that the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa could be linked to malaria. *Science* 314;5805 (2006).

BULGARIA

Kürdzhalia – A mass circumcision was held for nearly 200 Muslim boys, aged two to five years. One boy was screaming as a Muslim man said, “The boy doesn’t feel any pain, but parents get stressed and feel uneasy for their boys who are very sensitive. That is why they are afraid and cry.” In recent years, some groups have condemned circumcision as a form of genital mutilation. *Reuters*, 11/03/06.

CANADA

Winnipeg – Circumcisions will no longer be performed at St. Boniface Hospital after a boy was mistakenly circumcised there when the identities of two boys got mixed up. The Canadian Pediatric Society does not recommend routine circumcision of male infants. *CBC News*, 5/19/06.

DENMARK

The Ministry of Justice equated cosmetic labia-reduction surgery with FGM and has advised the National Board of Health that plastic surgeons break the law by offering labia-reduction surgery, a criminal offense. Operations must *not* be performed on female genitalia if the goal is purely cosmetic and there are no medical reasons, says the senior registrar of the National Board of Health, Torben Hørslev. *Kristeligt Dagblad*, 10/19/06.

EGYPT

Cairo – An international conference, *Eliminating the Violation of Women’s Bodies*, funded by the German government and sponsored by top Islamic scholars, was attended by some of Islam’s most senior and influential scholars. Most spoke against FGM with the message that “female genital mutilation was never mandated in Islam.” The clerics called upon international, educational, and media institutions to “explain the damage and the negative effect of this practice.” *Mail & Guardian Online*, 12/04/06.

GERMANY

A four-year-old boy underwent “routine surgery” to correct phimosis in a hospital in Hamburg. The operation was “problem-free,” but the boy developed a high and persistent fever. The intravenous glucose dosage was too high, the boy fell into a coma, and was declared brain-dead. *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 8/10/06.

INDONESIA

Female genital mutilation has been officially banned in Indonesia, according to a Health Ministry spokesman. The prohibition against the practice came in a notice sent to doctors and nurses. There is no punishment for those who ignore it. “The circular bars all medical workers from performing female circumcision either by slicing, cutting, or damaging the genital organs or...surroundings,” spokesman Soemardi said. *Science*, 6/10/06.

ITALY

Rome – A Nigerian woman was arrested while circumcising a 14-day-old girl, reported Equal Opportunities Minister, Stefania Prestigiacomo. She said this is the first application of the new law. *AGI*, 4/6/06.

Turin – Ritual circumcision was made available on a trial basis at a pediatric hospital in Turin. The experiment is intended as a bridge-building exercise with the city’s Muslim community. To the embarrassment of the organizers, however, most of the surgeons at the hospital have refused to participate, claiming conscientious objection. The Turin medical licensing authority has ruled that conscientious objection should be respected. *Corriere della Sera*, 10/18/06.

MALAYSIA

Johor Baru – Muhamad Shahbuddin Zainalabiddin’s penis was accidentally sliced by a medical assistant during a circumcision. A doctor retrieved the sliced tip, put it on ice, and rushed the boy to the hospital, where he underwent a five-hour operation to reattach it. *New Straits Times*, 12/04/06.

SOUTH AFRICA

Eastern Cape – Circumcision deaths rose to 16 when a youth who had been attending an illegal initiation school outside East London died of septicemia, said spokesperson Luyanda Majeke. An unlicensed traditional surgeon ran the school. Seventeen unlicensed surgeons have already been arrested this winter and face a variety of charges, including murder and unlawful circumcision. *Sapa*, 7/06/06.

Johannesburg – The Bush administration ended funding of a program that sought to curb the spread of HIV by offering subsidized circumcisions to men in Swaziland. The U.S. Agency for International Development said the program violated government policy supporting study of circumcision but not services offering the procedure. *Washington Post Foreign Service*, 10/13/06.

Johannesburg – Botched circumcisions caused the death of 14 boys and hundreds more were maimed and mutilated at “circumcision schools” in June. The provincial health department says that 243 deaths and 216 genital amputations from circumcisions were recorded between 1995 and 2004. Last year there were more than 20 deaths. *BMJ* 2006;333:62 (8 July).

CONTINUES

Port Elizabeth – A traditional surgeon, Patrick Hoho, 58, was allegedly hacked to death by a 22-year-old man who claimed Hoho had botched his circumcision. The murder took place at the former initiate's home, while his parents were out. Hoho's son, Lungisa, said the initiate had apparently been rejected by amakrwala (newly circumcised men), who said he was not "a real man." *Cape Times*, 7/05/06.

Swaziland – At 49%, Swaziland has the world's highest adult HIV rate and one of the world's lowest circumcision rates. The Swazi government, the WHO, Unicef, and other organizations are interested in including male circumcision as part of HIV prevention measures in the country. Adam Groenewald, director of the Urology Department at Mbabane Government Hospital, and his colleagues admitted it would still be important to continue emphasizing to the public that circumcision does *not* cure or prevent HIV. *Star*, 11/13/2996.

SERBIA

Gornje Ljubinje – Kosovo's Albanians and Serbs took their sons to a Bosnian Muslim circumcision festival. Two surgeons and a doctor circumcised boys under local anesthetic for a small number of parents, while a 69-year-old barber from Prizren circumcised the majority of the more than a hundred boys, mostly under 5 years. *UPI*, 7/31/06.

SWITZERLAND

Geneva – A World Health Organization official says having doctors supervise female genital cutting is "the same as attempting murder with a clean knife." WHO says the practice is torture and must be stopped. An assistant director-general of the international health group says the practice "is the worst thing that a medical doctor could possibly do." A UNICEF report last year said more girls are being cut by medical workers, which may help prevent the spread of HIV through the use of cleaner instruments, but the WHO opposes anything that might legitimize the practice. The practice inflates risks of complications for both mother and child in birth. *AP*, 6/2/06.

UNITED KINGDOM

London – The British Medical Association (BMA) revised their 2003 guidance on the law and ethics of circumcision. The revised guidance, dated June 2006, reaffirms their statement "to circumcise for therapeutic reasons where medical research has shown other techniques to be at least as effective and less invasive would be unethical and inappropriate."

UNITED STATES

FGM is illegal in the US, but girls and women, ages 14-82, are paying plastic surgeons as much as \$7000 for customized labia. Thousands of women are trading normal genitalia, which surgeons say suffer from "deformity" and have "the unsightly appearance of excess skin," for a "small, neat and tidy" look. Anti-mutilation laws could conceivably render the surgeries criminal. Labial surgery comes with side effects: nerve damage, soreness, hemorrhage, lost sensitivity, and pain during sex. *Utne Magazine*, March-April 2006.

Jupiter, FL – A teenager was arrested October 19 for starting a fire at *Good Deeds*, the first NOCIRC thrift store, owned by Kathy Howard (NOCIRC of FL). The 17-year-old stood across from the store, watching the fire, when he was apprehended. The fire caused \$250,000 damages.

New York, NY – A UN study reveals the full range and scale of violence against children, much of which is hidden and often socially approved. "The best way to deal with violence against children is to stop it before it happens," said Professor Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Independent Expert heading the study. "Everyone has a role to play in this, but States must take the primary

responsibility...prohibiting all kinds of violence against children, where it occurs and whoever is the perpetrator, and investing in present programs to address the underlying causes. People must be held accountable for their actions but a strong legal framework is not only about sanctions, it is about sending a robust, unequivocal signal that society just will not accept violence against children." *Joint Press Release WHO/OHCHR/UNICEF*, 10/12/06 [How long will it be before non-therapeutic circumcision of infants and children is recognized as a violent act?]

Tarrytown, NY – Award-winning Hudson Health Plan (HHP) took the lead as the first HMO in the US to offer an educational program on circumcision, genital integrity, and human rights. Following a one-day educational program for providers and employees, an educational flier was sent to all HHP members.



...are saying **NO to circumcision.**

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Announcements

13th Annual Demonstration/March Against Infant Circumcision, US Capitol, *Genital Integrity Awareness Week*. March 29–April 3, 2007. See www.sicsociety.org

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA BOOKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Books & Booklets

A Surgical Temptation: The Demonization of the Foreskin & the Rise of Circumcision in Britain, Robert Darby, PhD. 2005. Chicago University Press. To order, email quabbin@rcn.com or call 978-544-7141.

Born in the Big Rains: A Memoir of Somalia and Survival, Fadumo Korn with Sabine Eichhorst. 2006. \$23.95. Feminist Press at the City University of New York, New York. ISBN 1-55861-531-8.

The Circumcision, György Dalos. Translated by Judith Sollosy. 2006. \$14.95. Marion Boyars Publishers, New York. ISBN 0-7145-3123-6.

Connection Parenting: Parenting Through Connection Instead of Coercion, Through Love Instead of Fear, Pam Leo, 2005. \$14. CDS Books, NY, 1-800-343-4499.

Dear Mama, Natural Parenting for the First Year, Melissa M. Harden. 2005. \$15.99. ISBN 0-9768851-0-7. To order, visit www.dearmama.com or call toll free 1-877-8-DEARMA. Mention this ad with your order and 10% will be donated to NOCIRC.

Doctors Re-examine Circumcision, Thomas J. Ritter, MD, and George C. Denniston, MD. 3rd edition. 2002. \$15ppd. Washington: Third Millennium Publishing Co. ISBN 0-9711878-0-0. Lisa Stephon, NOCIRC of PA, lstephon@nocirc-pa.org.

Female Circumcision: Multicultural Perspectives, ed. by Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf. 2006. \$39.95. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia. ISBN 978-0-8122-3924-9.

Guide to Getting it On, Paul Joannides. \$21.95. Goofy Foot Press, POB 1719. Waldport, OR 97394. www.goofyfootpress.com

I Want My Foreskin for Giftmas!, Carl Schutt. 2004 \$15. ISBN 0-9753202-6-2. Inkus Imagination, POB 35, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Review copy free w/ \$3 postage. Mention this ad with your order and 10% will be donated to NOCIRC. Musical read-a-long: www.IWantMyForeskinForGiftmas.com.

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

The Rape of Innocence: One Woman's Story of Female Genital Mutilation in the U.S.A., Patricia Robinett. 2006. \$20. ISBN 1-878411-047. www.AesculpiusPress.com

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

Videos & CDs

Breakthrough. 26-min. DVD. \$25. Morgan Pollak, 3929 Pinnacle Pl., Escondido, CA 92025. Email: morganpollak@gmail.com.

Providing Informed Consent for Circumcision. Robert S. Van Howe, MD, MS, FAAP. DVD. \$15. NOCIRC, POB 2512, San Anselmo, CA 94979-2512.

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

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

Birth As We Know It. 75-min. DVD. \$50. Beautiful births and information about circumcision and genital integrity. www.birthintobeing.com.

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

Restoration in Focus: An Instructional Video. 100-min. VHS tape in PAL format. £15. www.norm-uk.org.

And More...

blouch! A webpage of first-hand accounts told by victims, survivors, and participants of forced genital cuttings. See: www.genitalintegrity.net/blouch/. Send your story to blouch-contact@insightbb.com.

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Marilyn Fayre Milos, RN

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GENITAL INTEGRITY AWARENESS WEEK

13th Annual Demonstration/March For Genital Integrity

March 29th – April 3rd, 2007

Washington, DC

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

GIAW Activities

For information, see sic.society.org.

NOCIRC Buffet Dinner and Reception

Saturday, March 31, 6:30pm

Best Western, 8601 Baltimore Blvd., College Park, MD

\$25/person, space is limited

To register, send your check for \$25 to NOCIRC, PO Box 2512, San Anselmo, CA 94979-2512. Please indicate on the Memo line that it's for the banquet.

Call for Abstracts

The 10th International Symposium on Circumcision, Genital Integrity, and Human Rights

September 4-6, 2008,

Keele University

Staffordshire, UK

Please submit your abstract of 150 words or less to NOCIRC by January 31, 2008.

Continuing Education: CE credits will be provided upon request.

Registration details and accommodation information will be announced in the *2008 NOCIRC Annual Newsletter*.

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P.O. Box 2512
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