



## Circumcision Facts for Parents

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- An infant boy is born with a healthy foreskin. It keeps your baby's penis safe, warm, clean, and moist. It allows the baby's glans (head) to complete its development normally. The glans is born covered and protected for a reason.
- Circumcision is the process of prepuce tearing, separation and amputation, done primarily for aesthetic reasons in the US, with ineffective pain management.
- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, there are no medical indications for circumcision in the newborn period.
- No national or international medical association recommends routine circumcision.
- Medicalized circumcision began during the 1800s to prevent masturbation, which was believed to cause disease. Clearly we are now aware that masturbation does not cause disease and that circumcision does not reduce incidence of masturbation.
- 67.5% of males are left intact. As reported in the New York Times, a federal health researcher stated in July at the International AIDS Conference that the U.S. circumcision rate had fallen to 32.5% in 2009. The researcher works for the Centers for Disease Control. The numbers are based on calculations by SDI Health, a Pennsylvania company that analyzes health care data.
- Although many studies have claimed that circumcision can reduce an adult male's risk of acquiring sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), there is no convincing proof that the incidence of STD infection differs significantly between cut and uncut men. Studies that claim otherwise are usually done in poor and under-developed countries and do not take into account personal hygiene, complex social customs, education level, medical services, traditional sexual practices, and genetic factors in susceptibility to disease. Similar studies in industrialized nations, such as Australia, find that circumcision does not reduce the risk of STD transmission. There is, however, evidence that circumcision increases the risk of some STDs.
- Dr. Mark Reiss, long time physician, discusses ample research which shows us that even those babies who don't scream and cry while being cut, even the 4% who do receive anesthesia, still show significant and detrimental physiological changes in body and brain activity. Those who do not scream show on neurological scans to be lapsing into a state of neurogenic shock and/or coma, which can sometimes occur immediately. To the untrained eye (i.e. the parent who says 'my baby didn't cry') this post-surgical trauma appears as though the baby has just fallen asleep.
- Dr. Sears says there are no benefits to circumcision. He says the only socially acceptable reason to circumcise is religion. Even orthodox practitioners are increasingly making the choice not to circumcise.

- Females are also born with their own prepuce, which is also circumcised in some parts of the world but is not socially acceptable in the US. Baby girls are currently protected (by law) against any form of circumcision because of the religious views of their parents, boys should be afforded the same protection. Males & females have a right to genital integrity.
- Death and complete penis amputation, although rare, are completely preventable complications from circumcision by not electing that your child be circumcised.
- If you decide to have your son cut, consider delaying the procedure. Be aware that studies show that circumcision at 5 months results in significantly fewer serious complications than circumcision in the neonatal period, irrespective of the method used. Therefore, neonatal circumcision should not be recommended. Complications including meatal deformities, meatal stenosis, adhesions and infection were more frequent and more significant in the neonatal circumcision group.

#### RESOURCES:

- Circumcision Information Resource Page- <http://www.cirp.org/pages/parents>
- Peaceful Parenting- <http://www.drnomma.org/2010/01/are-you-fully-informed.html>
- Circumcision Resource Center- <http://www.circumcision.org/>
- Circumcision Info (Australia-Based)- <http://www.circinfo.org/parents.html>
- Circumcision Decision Maker Resource Page- <http://circumcisiondecisionmaker.com/>
- Leaflets, Reports & Research- [www.doctorsopposingcircumcision.org/DOC/publications.html](http://www.doctorsopposingcircumcision.org/DOC/publications.html)
- National Organization of Circ Information Resource Centers Guide to Infant Circumcision- <http://www.nocirc.org/publish/pamphlet3.html>
- Circumcision FAQ- <http://www.notjustskin.org/node/7>
- Circumcision Pain Management Info- <http://www.drnomma.org/2009/10/circumcision-study-ends-early-due-to.html>
- National Organization of Restoring Men - <http://www.norm.org/>
- Dr. Sears on Circumcision- <http://www.askdrsears.com/html/1/t012000.asp>