

Genital Integrity for All

Better Babies

SERIES

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Concerning Circumcision

**Half of
parents in
the U.S. now
say "NO"**



**How to
protect your
baby boy**



NOCIRC of Michigan

Educating a New Generation

You are not alone if the topic of circumcision is a source of concern or conflict in your family. You want to do what is best for your son and don't want to make the wrong choice. However, the best choice is often not the easiest one.

Did you know that more parents are choosing not to circumcise? Yes, about half of parents in the United States now say *no* to circumcision, and it rarely becomes necessary later in life.

So, there will be other boys in his class who are not circumcised. Worldwide, 70% of parents don't practice this unnecessary surgery.

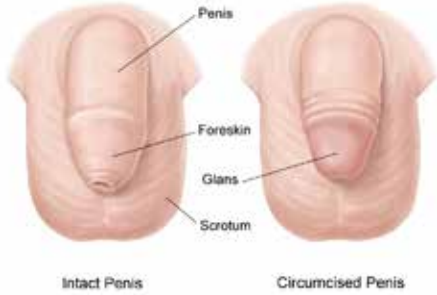
After waiting nine months in the hopes of having a beautiful, perfect baby, your son's circumcision will amputate a sleeve of the specialized tissue, known as the foreskin, that normally covers and protects our genitals. Every mammal is born with a foreskin: dogs, horses, girls, and boys.



John Harvey Kellogg of Battle Creek, Michigan popularized circumcision among American parents in the late 19th century to prevent masturbation. Doctors back then worried that rubbing the foreskin was an easy way for boys and girls to masturbate. They believed that sexual enjoyment was dirty and dangerous. That is how being circumcised came to be incorrectly known as “cleaner.”

Nearly all circumcisions are done for customary or religious reasons. Apart from the foreskin, what other normal, healthy, and otherwise permanent parts of our bodies do we even think about removing?

Without any disease or defect, there is no medical need for a circumcision.



“Circumcision of boys without a medical indication is ethically unacceptable when the procedure is carried out without informed consent from the person undergoing the surgery. Therefore, circumcision should not be performed before the boy is 18 years old and able to decide whether this is an operation he wants.”

Danish Medical Association
December 2016

There are no extra parts on a boy, and his penis needs no fixing.

No medical organization recommends routine circumcision. As a strategy for preventing sexually transmitted diseases, it is not taken seriously by public health educators in the United States. The benefits claimed for circumcising your baby are all hypothetical and distant. These benefits can be achieved by non-surgical preventive health measures.

Infections in the penis are rare and usually easily treated. For example, 2% of intact boys get a urinary tract infection before the age of 7, but 8% of girls do as well.

The male foreskin is a sleeve of mobile tissue that preserves the sensitivity of a penis by keeping its head covered like a glove. It makes up one-third to one-half of the skin on a penis. It also protects the urinary opening, preventing irritation from contact with urine. It is this contact that leads to ulceration and a narrowing of the opening in 5%-20% of circumcised boys.

The foreskin is specialized and delicate tissue, richly packed with highly sensitive nerve endings. These nerve endings provide men with significant sexual enjoyment.

The rule that “form follows function” is true for gloves, socks, spoons, as well as for penises. If you cut its form, then you cut its function.

The circumcision of your son would happen when he is fully conscious and strapped down. Babies feel pain more than adults. Topical pain relief is insufficient to prevent the extreme pain from the surgery, and truly effective pain relief can be dangerous to his delicate body.

Your son's foreskin would have to be peeled away from the head of his penis like a fingernail from a finger. His foreskin would then be slit lengthwise, crushed, and sliced away.

Every circumcision has surgical risks that can lead to unintended consequences, such as excessive bleeding, excessive scarring, and infection. There is no clear indication of where the foreskin should be cut. Excessive skin removal is a common problem that leads to painful erections.

Healing from a circumcision would take your son seven to ten days. His feeding and sleep patterns would be adversely affected.



You would need to care for the circumcision wound in his diaper area, which would cause him pain when he urinates and when his body is pressed up against yours. His penis would be left exposed to chafing for the rest of his life. Over time, his skin there would roughen and thicken, and his penis would lose some sensitivity.



No special care is required for an intact penis. Circumcision won't make bathing your son any easier. The foreskin of his penis has fewer skin folds and is less prone to infection than a vulva or a vagina.

At birth, your son's foreskin is joined to the head of his penis and should never be forcibly retracted. Wipe the penis like a finger, and clean only what is seen. As your son grows up, the inner foreskin will gradually separate on its own from the head of his penis. Forcibly retracting his foreskin can cause bleeding, infection, skin adhesions, and scarring.



The most obvious difference between father and son won't be the latter's foreskin. You can save your son from the pain, loss, and scarring that will come from your irreversible decision to circumcise. Your son will spend 80% of his life as an adult. Shouldn't he be the one to consent to this unnecessary surgery?

For references to the data cited in this pamphlet, additional research about circumcision outcomes and complications, and videos of the procedure, please visit this page on our website:
www.NOCIRCoMI.org/Resources



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Info@NOCIRCoMI.org
248-642-5703

Our mission as a nonprofit, consumer rights advocacy group is to educate parents and healthcare providers about circumcision, the function of the foreskin, and the benefits of foreskin restoration.



PO Box 333
Birmingham, MI 48012