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## MOMS & DADS TALK: Circumcision Gets Controversial

Is this only a personal choice for parents?

By [Stacey Schantz](#) | [Email the author](#) | March 4, 2011

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I recently caught wind of a [very controversial MOMS TALK](#) on the [Lutherville-Timonium Patch](#). It began with the story of a mother who opted not to circumcise her two boys, only to be plagued by issues, which required their youngest to have the procedure performed as a toddler.

When my husband and I asked our obstetrician and pediatrician about circumcision, neither offered a definitive medical recommendation. While they provided pros and cons, they ultimately declared it “a personal choice.”

Both sides of the case seem to have merit

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—perhaps because there is no right answer? As a parent, we love our children and want to do what is best for them on all accounts. When we make a decision, we tend to stand firm and hold our ground. But I wonder, if there were a clear medical answer, instead of just research and recommendations, would it be such a highly debated issue?

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## IN THIS ARTICLE



**MOMS TALK: To Circumcise or Not To Circumcise?**

By **Joanna Bell**

**What do you think? Why is circumcision so controversial? Is this only "a personal choice" for parents?**

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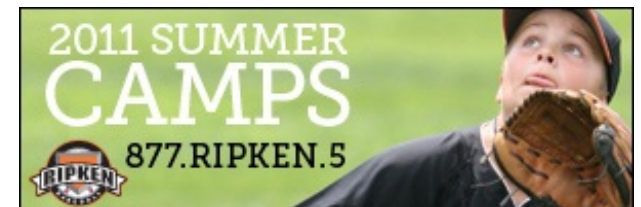
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**Craig Ginsberg**

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1:28 pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

Physical integrity and the fundamental right to ones own body, a right that was repeatedly violated with the implementation of mass industrialized, non-consenting, non-therapeutic male infant circumcision in the Unites States. A wide range of surgical complications occur in 2- 10% of the cases.(1) Since there are approximately 120 million circumcised men in the United States today, it stands to reason that there are millions of men who suffer daily from the effects of these botched



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circumcisions.

Many Americans are surprised to hear that circumcision (the surgical removal of the foreskin) is uncommon in the western world. Foreigners are often shocked when they first hear that the practice of circumcision even exists in the United States. Circumcision was first introduced in the United States by an anti-sexual Victorian initiative which began during the 1830's. Numerous publications from the 1830's to times even as late as the 1970's had advocated for circumcision as a means to prevent masturbation, and permanently desensitize the penis.(2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12)

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Circumcision advocates quickly moved on to manufacture a number of outrageous health claims. These claims were tailored to the fears and anxieties of the day. Circumcision has been claimed to cure epilepsy, convulsions, paralysis, elephantiasis, tuberculosis, eczema, bed-wetting, hip-joint disease, fecal incontinence, rectal prolapse, wet dreams, hernia, headaches, nervousness, hysteria, poor eyesight, idiocy, mental retardation, insanity, strabismus, hydrocephalus, clubfoot, cancer, STD's, UTI's, ect.(13) Doctors were eager to claim that they could cure many of these ailments, conditions and diseases because there were no treatments available then. Even though all of these claims have been thoroughly discredited, circumcision has remained a solution in search of a problem ever since. Many Americans are surprised to find out that female genital cutting (FGC) shares a strikingly similar history in the United States.(5,14,15,16,17,18,19) FGC was even covered by Blue Cross Blue Shield until 1977. Nowadays, many forms of FGC are now considered forms of female genital mutilation (FGM), which are banned in all western countries.

**Craig Ginsberg**

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1:29pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

Perhaps the most shocking fact is that circumcision continues to be practiced in the United States even though no official western medical organization in the world recommends it. The Royal Dutch Medical Society, The British Medical Association, the Canadian Pediatric Society, and the

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Royal Australian College of Physicians have all made official policy statements against circumcision. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Urological Association all do not recommend circumcision, and are also in agreement that there are no proven benefits.

**Craig Ginsberg**

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For some reason this information is not making it to parents. Studies have shown that doctors provide parents with almost no accurate or useful information about circumcision. One study showed that 40% of parents believed that their doctors failed to provide enough information, 46% reported that their doctors failed to give them any medical information at all, and 82.8% of parents regretted their decision they made within the first six months of their son's life.(20) Another study found that physicians were less likely to circumcise their own sons.(21) This suggests that doctors are very well aware that circumcision is a non-therapeutic surgery (in short, a ritual); but they do not appear to share this knowledge with parents. A busy physician can supplement their income by as much as \$60,000 per year from circumcision surgeries alone.(22) This incentive can cloud a physician's judgment when it comes to providing parents with information about circumcision.

Many parents are surprised to hear that anesthetics are used in only a minority of cases.(23) The use of local anesthetics significantly drives up the costs of surgery. When anesthetics are used, they can only reduce the pain. Infants can not be given general anesthesia because of the medical risks involved. In the recent past, anesthesia was rarely used, if ever.

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Because of this, circumcision has always been an extremely traumatizing experience causing an array of short and long term behavioral problems, including altered perceptions, and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)(24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35), and a possibly self destructive behavior(36,37). Many circumcised men, some of whom are doctors, experience a

strong denial of loss which in turn fuels an emotional compulsion to repeat the trauma to normalize their loss.(38,39,40,41,42)

What is the foreskin? is a question that many Americans would have trouble answering. Information about the foreskin is virtually absent during discussions of anatomy in biology classrooms, and yet, the foreskin provides a well-documented set of crucial sensory, protective, immunological, hygienic, and sexual functions. The foreskin is a double fold of skin that is twice as big as its appearance. It can make up to 80% or more of the penile skin covering, and includes around 12-20 square inches of skin (the size of a 3x4 or a 4x5 index card!)(43,46), and in turn includes a specialized sheet of dartos muscle(44)

One of the functions of this mobile skin system is to glide up and down the shaft of the penis in order to facilitate non-abrasive stimulation during sexual activity without any need for artificial lubricant. This frictionless gliding mechanism is the principal source of stimulation for the intact penis and facilitates non-abrasive intercourse.

### Craig Ginsberg

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The neuro-anatomy of the penis has been rigorously studied by respected anatomists of all kinds. The component tissues that comprise the foreskin are richly innervated with the greatest quantity and variety of sensory nerve endings than any other part of the penis.(45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53) Many people are surprised to discover that the glans or "head" of the penis is actually the least sensitive part.(46,52,53)

To no surprise, this information was corroborated in a 2006 study which measured the sensitivity of all the parts of the penis. Researchers used an extremely sensitive pressure sensing probe while each test subject, whose view was blocked with a screen, reported a sensation of touch. To demonstrate precision they took each measurement multiple times. The results were statistically consistent. They concluded:

"Five locations on the uncircumcised penis that are routinely removed at circumcision were more sensitive than the most sensitive location on the circumcised penis[...] The glans in the circumcised male is less sensitive to fine-touch pressure than the glans of the uncircumcised male[...]The most sensitive location on the circumcised penis is the circumcision scar on the ventral surface [...] When compared to the most sensitive area of the circumcised penis, several

locations on the uncircumcised penis that are missing from the circumcised penis were significantly more sensitive."(53)

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1:31pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

The foreskin, like the eyelid, also serves an important set of protective and immunological functions. The foreskin protects the delicate glans of the penis and puts the urethra at a distance from its environment protecting it from foreign contaminants of all kinds. While simultaneously shielding the penis from injury. The foreskins inner fold and the glans of the penis are comprised of mucous membrane tissue. These are also present in your eyes, mouth, and all other bodily orifices including the female genitals. These mucous membranes perform many immunological and hygienic functions. Certain components such as Langerhans cells(54), plasma cells(55), apocrine glands(56), and sebaceous glands(57), collectively secrete emolliating lubricants(58) rich in enzymes such as lysosomal enzymes, cathepsin B, chymotrypsin, neutrophil elastase, immunoglobulin, and cytokine(59,60) whose function is to sequester and "digest" foreign pathogens. The foreskin is also responsible for the production, retention, and dispersal of pheromones such as androsterone(61). In time we will discover even more information about the foreskin and its functional components.

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The intact penis is naturally clean and maintains a level of hygiene that is optimal when compared to a penis that has been altered by circumcision. In fact, a myriad of rigorously controlled studies performed by objective researchers among racially and socioeconomically homogeneous study groups in developed urban settings have shown that circumcision is often associated with an increased risk of bacterial infections, viral infections, and major STD's (62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73).

Needless to say, circumcised men have been denied normal bodily functions associated with anatomically correct genitalia. Foregen.org is working tirelessly to restore physical integrity and

emotional wellbeing to circumcised men who desire genital intactness. Visit [Foregen.org](http://Foregen.org) and donate to support the cause.

**Craig Ginsberg**

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1:32pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

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### Jakew

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2:01pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

I see Craig has again copied & pasted his lengthy comments. Rather than repeating the same debate, I'd encourage the interested reader to visit the original thread where his claims have already been thoroughly refuted. <http://timonium.patch.com/articles/moms-talk-to-circumcise-or-not-to-circumcise>



### Stacey Schantz

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2:10pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

I agree with Jakew, I was hoping this article would promote a new discussion rather than just repeating the other article. Thanks!

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**Craig Ginsberg**

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2:14pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

ok sry, but i hope my summary above helps

**Craig Ginsberg**

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2:19pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

i can delete it if you want



**Stacey Schantz**

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2:19pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

No need to be sorry, I just wasn't posting this article to rehash this out. My point was to open for discussion and espically - why isn't there an absolute medical recommendation? Everyone is welcome to their opinion, and you support a lot of sources, but then why wouldn't OBs and Pediatricians guide expectant parents to the same resolutions? My opinion is that it boils down to what my physicians recommended - it is a personal decision - because the research and recommendations are on both sides of the issue. But you must choose to look at both sides of the issue to see that.

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**Jakew**

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2:49pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

"My point was to open for discussion and especially - why isn't there an absolute medical recommendation?" -- Interesting question.

First of all, it's important to point out that new studies are constantly being published (and, indeed, the rate of publication has been growing exponentially since 1970, see <http://circumcisionnews.blogspot.com/2009/10/exponential-growth-in-interest-in.html>). As a result of this, we know a lot more about circumcision - both good and bad - than we did even ten years ago. Consequently, recommendations can and do change over time. For example, the American Urological Association revised their policy in 2007 to add (among other changes) "the American Urological Association recommends that circumcision should be presented as an option for health benefits".

The American Academy of Pediatrics are expected to issue a revised policy statement at some point this year, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It's widely expected that their new policy will be more positive towards circumcision than their neutral 1999 statement. However, the CDC have stated on their website that any recommendations will be purely optional.

What they will say is anyone's guess, but my expectation is that they *will* state that the benefits exceed the risks, but they won't go as far as to recommend routine circumcision (ie., of all newborn boys). Instead, they'll probably say something about educating parents and enabling their choices.

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

12:47pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

frankly this is offensive. the harms and losses for the victims of surgical and psychological complications can be immeasurable;e. The harms out weight the claimed and unproven benefits.

**Jakew**

Flag as inappropriate

1:09pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Well, you're obviously free to disagree, Craig. You're not obliged to hold the same views as the AAP/CDC; it's just that this is what they're likely to do. (Consider, for example, "The AAP's new policy isn't expected to recommend circumcision outright, but it's likely to give more credence to health benefits, said Dr. Doug Diekema, a member of the AAP's circumcision task force." -- <http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/sc-health-0216-circumcision-20110216,0,5336023.story> Or "Medical benefits outweigh risks for infant MC, and there are many practical advantages of doing it in the newborn period. Benefits and risks should be explained to parents to facilitate shared decision-making in the newborn period." -- <http://www.publichealthreports.org/archives/issueopen.cfm?articleID=2352> .)

### Craig Ginsberg

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3:50pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

We will just have to wait and see what they say. if the benefit is soooo clear why don't any other health organizations in the world recommend it?

IF the benifits have not been clear in the past then why was it done?

Dont you get it?

circumcision is a solution ins search of a problem.

In the 1800s we would be arguing about how effectively this prevents masturbation, We would argue how effective it is at preventing epilepsy, convulsions, \_ paralysis, elephantiasis, tuberculosis, eczema, bed-wetting, hip-joint disease, fecal incontinence, rectal prolapse, wet dreams, hernia, headaches, nervousness, hysteria, poor eyesight, idiocy, mental retardation, insanity, strabismus, hydrocephalus, clubfoot, and the African American rape of whit women.

in the 40, and 30s we would argue about how effective this is at preventing cancer. in the 50s and 60 we would be arguing about how effective this is at preventing STDs.

If there was a clear benefit we would not have to go back and fourth like this for 150 years.

### Jakew

Flag as inappropriate

4:02pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011



"We will just have to wait and see what they say. if the benefit is soooo clear why don't any other health organizations in the world recommend it?" -- because, while there is a net benefit, the magnitude of that benefit is not large enough to warrant recommending it for all newborn boys (see Lannon CM, et al. Circumcision debate. Pediatrics 2000 Mar; 105(3 Pt 1): 641-2). However, as I explained above, the literature on the subject of circumcision has been growing, and with it the understanding of risks and benefits have changed.

"If there was a clear benefit we would not have to go back and fourth like this for 150 years." -- science is like that, Craig. New research displaces the old, new and better methodologies sometimes refute and sometimes strengthen former understandings. Did you know that hand-washing began long before the germ theory of disease explained why it helped to prevent disease? It's origins were actually religious. But it would be an obvious error to dismiss the value of hand-washing, wouldn't it?

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:18pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

exactly, the science changes all the time. So why risk the unnecessary, risky, and painful amputation if there is no certain benefit.

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:21pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

exactly, the science changes all the time. So why risk the unnecessary, risky, painful, and irreversible amputation if there is no certain benefit. The empirical data is heavily waited in the favour of the foreskin as i discuss below. The new science has shown the foreskin has benefits!

**Jakew**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:22pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

People have to make decisions based upon incomplete data all the time. Very few things in life are certain. We just use the best information available to us.



**Stacey Schantz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:20pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

Absolutely no need to delet it.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Cyn**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:25pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

The cutting side really had no 'right answer' to this. Ultimately, there no moral or ethical reason to amputate a normal, healthy, functioning body part from a non consenting human being.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:27pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

yes, the there are no clear benefits, but the harms and losses are the only thing that is proven.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:31pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

for one instance. this example only touches the tip of the ice berg.

recent research shows that Neonatal Injury Alters Adult Pain Sensitivity by Increasing Opioid Tone in the Periaqueductal Gray(34)

this explains the results of a series of study's that show circumcised children have an increased pain response to vaccination. (33)

So here we see that the harm done is only starting to be understood.

(34) LaPrairie Jamie L. Murphy Anne Z. Neonatal Injury Alters Adult Pain Sensitivity by Increasing Opioid Tone in the Periaqueductal Gray. Front Behav Neurosci 30 September 2009.

(33) Taddio A, Katz J, Ilersich AL, Koren G. Effect of neonatal circumcision on pain response during subsequent routine vaccination. Lancet 1997;349(9052):599-603.

[Log in to reply](#)



**Stacey Schantz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:44pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

Sorry Craig, but I don't even see how pain response during vaccinations could even be slightly related to being circumcised, it seems very far fetched... but then again, it's just my opinion, and I'm a woman.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:59pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

the trauma alters development of the brain by several mechanism which are not fully understood yet. for instance circumcision increases cortisol levels for a long period of time. changes like this effect development. cortisol is associated with pain, stress, and shock.

this article has some good references and links to Anands research. he has spend his entire career researching the effects of pain on developing fetuses and infants.

<http://knol.google.com/k/circumcision-and-human-behavior#>

(24) Gunnar MR, Fisch RO, Korsvik S, Donhowe JM. The effects of circumcision on serum cortisol and behavior. Psychoneuroendocrinology 1981; 6(3):269-75.

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:09pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

receptors like opioid receptors are responsible for receiving the body's natural painkillers. Trauma affects the development of opioid receptors hence altering the body's ability to receive its own painkillers. Increased artificial pain killers may also be needed to alleviate pain to the same extent

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:19pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

it seemed far fetched to me too when i first heard of the vaccinations study's, but today we have corroborating research on early human neurological development.



**Stacey Schantz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:21pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

So why do girls cry when they are vaccinated?

[Log in to reply](#)

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:32pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

yes they do, but in that study they showed circumcised boys cried more than intact girls and boys. on average tho, so there are many exceptions and co-founding factors. anaesthetic appears to help but not prevent trauma entirely.

**Jakew**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:35pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

To be fair, Taddio et al. did not study infants who had received effective anaesthesia for

circumcision (they studied infants circumcised without anaesthesia and infants circumcised with EMLA) They remarked, "Study of the vaccination pain response of infants who had received more effective circumcision pain management (ie, dorsal penile nerve block and adequate postoperative pain management) would be interesting."

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

3:39pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

notably Anand does not have any strong opinions on circumcision. he study's the effects of pain in general this is from one of his publications. circumcision is only one source of trauma he discusses. His primary work has helped people all over the world take infant pain seriously thru standardized use of painkilling techniques.

"Changes in the patterns of neonatal cries have been correlated with the intensity of pain experienced during circumcision and were accurately differentiated by adult listeners.<sup>169</sup> In other studies of the painful procedures, neonates were found to be more sensitive to pain than older infants (those 3 to 12 months old) but had similar latency periods between exposure to a painful stimulus and crying or another motor response.<sup>99-101,103,152,170</sup> This supports the contention that slower conduction speed in the nerves of neonates is offset by the smaller inter-neuron distances traveled by the impulse."

available here: <http://www.cirp.org/library/pain/anand/>

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

3:41pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

another excerpt from Annand.

"Numerous lines of evidence suggest that even in the human fetus, pain pathways as well as cortical and subcortical centers necessary for pain perception are well developed late in gestation, and the neurochemical systems now known to be associated with pain transmission and modulation are intact and functional. Physiologic responses to painful stimuli have been well documented in neonates of various gestational ages and are reflected in hormonal, metabolic, and cardiorespiratory changes similar to but greater than those observed in adult subjects. Other

responses in newborn infants are suggestive of integrated emotional and behavioral responses to pain and are retained in memory long enough to modify subsequent behavior patterns."

"current knowledge suggests that humane considerations should apply as forcefully to the care of neonates and young, nonverbal infants as they do to children and adults in similar painful and stressful situations."

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

3:46pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

local anaesthetic can only dull pain. and when that wears off you have a child in pain from his amputation wound for days and sometimes weeks.

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

3:48pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

infants also have a functioning memory:

<http://www.cirp.org/library/psych/hepper1/>

**Jakew**

Flag as inappropriate

3:51pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

Actually, studies of adults have revealed that penile nerve blocks can eliminate pain (though in fairness they aren't completely effective in all cases). As for post-operative pain, there is some, though it can be managed and - returning to the point - there is no evidence of it causing lasting trauma.

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

3:59pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

ok Jake, why dont you go ask Anand?

**Greg**

Flag as inappropriate

4:05pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

Circumcision is medically unnecessary. Do you want this torture to happen to your children? : <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-6584757516627632617#> Doctors oppose circumcision: [www.doctorsopposngcircumcision.org](http://www.doctorsopposngcircumcision.org) San Fran circumcision ban bill: [www.mgmbill.org](http://www.mgmbill.org) Let america be intact: [www.intactamerica.org](http://www.intactamerica.org) [www.circumstitions.com](http://www.circumstitions.com) [www.tlctugger.com](http://www.tlctugger.com) [www.thewholenetwork.org](http://www.thewholenetwork.org) [www.norm.org](http://www.norm.org)

Log in to reply

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

4:11pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

yes its common sense really. its amazing we have to even debate such an obvious trauma. instead we must empirically quantify the pain because watching it is not enough evidence apparently.

**Cyn**

Flag as inappropriate

4:11pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

WARNING - Jake W is a circumfetishist who is driven by his sexual fetish to promote circumcision in any way possible (while pretending to be a 'credible' source on this issue). He is associated with other known circumfetishists and belong to circumfetish group(s). Parents - or anyone else - reading his words should take this into consideration.

Log in to reply





**Emily Kimball**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:33pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

Cyn, In an effort to maintain open discussion, I ask that you refrain from making accusations about fellow commenters. Thank you.

**Cyn**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:51pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Emily - many people who read his posts don't know where Jake's really coming from. He passes himself off as a valid source for information on this subject and unsuspecting people are clueless as to his underlying motivations - those motivations have *\*everything\** to do with his presence on this page. Readers should be aware of this when they see his comments.

**Steve C**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:52pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

I agree with Cyn and Greg and Craig. I'm Steve C, and I've seen enough operations to know the horrors of it. Everytime I close my eyes for a few hours after seeing it, I'll hear the screams of the boys in my mind. My imagination feeding my emotions the cold surgical steel as a boy is forever scarred for life. You never forget those screams, anymore than you would another horrific sight. The scientific evidence is overwhelming, the sight is terrifying and the effect is eternal. Even "restoration" can't give you back everything you lost. 32000 boys a day worldwide.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:05pm on Friday, March 4, 2011

Early trauma has also been correlated to self destructive adult behaviour and suicide, as some northern European researchers found in their study's below.

# Jacobson B, Eklund G, Hamberger L, et al. Perinatal origin of adult self-destructive behavior. Acta Psychiatr Scand 1987;76(4):364-71.

[Abstract]

# van der Kolk BA, Perry JC, Herman JL. Childhood origins of self-destructive behavior. Am J Psychiatry 1991; 148;1665-71.

# Salk L, Lipsitt LP, Sturner WQ, et al. Relationship of maternal and perinatal conditions to eventual adolescent suicide. Lancet 1985;i:624-7

[Abstract]

**Jenny**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:02am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Hi Stacey, fellow mom here! The guys above can hash it out amongst themselves. The fact of the matter is that the American Academy of Pediatrics states, "there are no valid medical indications for circumcision in the neonatal period," no medical organization in the world recommends it, 70% of American parents are protecting their baby boys from it, it cuts off 2/3 penile nerves and 1/2 penile skin, and is violence against little babies--chopping, slicing and dicing their perfect bodies. I don't know about you, but I for one am a perfectionist and if I created my baby over 9 agonizing months then I'm not going to let a butcher slice and dice him up to make \$\$\$\$. You know what Jake, if I were your mom you'd be whole and you would be an intactivist--cease and desist from advocating to mothers that they should damage their perfect babies. Stacey, the AAP can't recommend circumcision for all because because genital hygiene and disease prevention is soap and condoms for girls AND boys. I always say, if you think you are going to raise a someone who won't ever clean himself, is promiscuous and refuses to use condoms, then get him circumcised, otherwise, protect his bodily integrity. Also, the AAP cannot denounce it entirely or they would be subject to a ton of lawsuits. After a circumcision the parents have one year to sue the doctor and when the child turns 18 he has one year to sue as well because he did not give his consent for the surgery. God bless.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Jakew**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:38am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"The fact of the matter is that the American Academy of Pediatrics states, "there are no valid medical indications for circumcision in the neonatal period," -- they did, in 1971, but they have since offered four policy statements. The most recent can be found here, taking a neutral position: <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;103/3/686> Since I've already corrected you on this point in the other thread, I must assume that you're now deliberately spreading false information, and I wonder why...

**Cyn**

Flag as inappropriate

8:55pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

@Jenny - you are correct, the AAP does NOT recommend routine infant circumcision.

**Jenny**

Flag as inappropriate

3:13am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Seriously too, mom to mom, what is this guy Jake on here for? Be very careful of anyone who advocates cutting babies. Be very, very careful. Additionally, I love the sites [www.drmomma.org](http://www.drmomma.org), [www.stopthecut.org](http://www.stopthecut.org), [www.coloradonocirc.org](http://www.coloradonocirc.org), and [www.thewholenetwork.org](http://www.thewholenetwork.org).

By the way, did you know that Prince William is intact, as are so many celebrities like Jude Law, Robert Pattinson, Mario Lopez, Leonardo DiCaprio, and more. If the foreskin is good enough for a prince, it's good enough for your son is what I always say. Did you know that Princess Diana fought hard to keep her sons whole and to breastfeed them? She was such an incredible mom. I wish you had that kind of mom Jake.

Log in to reply

**Jakew**

Flag as inappropriate

4:34am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

I take it that you're unable to address my points then, Jenny? That is, after all, the usual reason why people resort to personal attacks...

**Cyn**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:53pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

@Jenny - Jake is here for the reasons I've mentioned above.

**Steve C**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:11am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Wonderful points Jenny. Very succinct, and good to know that about the Prince, I'd never known that. I believe Jake is an advocate for male genital surgery, although I suspect there may be deeper issues, from what I've been able to read of his his thoughts and opinions.

I myself am not a father, but at the same time, I can logically reason between something right and something wrong. I've been speaking out against Female Genital Mutilation for 3 years, having done much research and a big effort and speaking out against Male GM for the last 2 and a half years. I've done much research on that topic as well.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Lori Hall**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:31am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Jake Waskett chose, as an adult, homosexual man, to be circumcised. There is absolutely nothing wrong with any of that. He is an adult and can do exactly what he chooses to do with his own body. He, quite clearly, has done the research, accepted the possibilities of infection, etc, and is "very happy" with his cut penis. What is absolutely wrong is to advocate that all young boys be circumcised in accordance with Mr. Waskett's various preferences. There is no good reason to injure your baby. Cyn was not just making accusations, Stacey. What she is talking about is widely reported, mostly by Mr. Waskett, himself, on various pro-circumcision sites. If these were just rumours, Mr. Waskett would have, undoubtably, filed suit numerous times.

Why do girls cry when they are vaccinated? There is a simple explanation: because it HURTS. Needles hurt. Ripping a fingernail up from it's nailbed is excruciating, and can only minimally

compare to what babies feel as their foreskin is ripped from the glans. The surgery is not over, though, until the entire foreskin is cut completely away. It can, and does, at times, take several cuttings to neatly trim away the tissue. WHY?? Why amputate completely healthy tissue? Why ignore infant pain? Jenny is absolutely correct. The American Association of Pediatrics cannot forsake their colleagues and denounce routine infant circumcision. The suits to follow would break the back of the malpractice insurance industry.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Jakew**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:43am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"Cyn was not just making accusations, Stacey. What she is talking about is widely reported, mostly by Mr. Waskett, himself, on various pro-circumcision sites." -- wrong, and please do not spread such falsehoods. Cyn's claims are false, as I've already explained in the other thread. Repeatedly making such claims is absolutely unacceptable.

**Cyn**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:59pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Thanks, Lori. And you're correct - Jake's close association with other circumfetishists and circumfetish groups such as Circlist and Gilgal are not 'accusations', they are based on what is already widely known about him.

**Jennifer H**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:06am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Having worked in a NICU in which I assisted many OBs with circumcisions, I have seen 100's of procedures. On my account many (not all) infants were quiet, content and asleep before the procedure was even over. Once I had children of my own I had no issues with my boys being circumcised as is their father. We have no lasting horrible birth memories and I for one cannot fathom

an infant of the same age having lasting memories of his circumcision.

This is MY personal choice. I could care less if a Prince or some movie star has his penis intact. What you do with your own children is your own business. It really just boils down to a personal choice and one that NEITHER side will change. PERIOD.

Oh by the way you people seem completely nuts. You attack one another and bring irrelevant topics into the discussion just try to prove your points.

I am sorry Stacey, but I fear you actually did a disservice to the Perry Hall Patch on this article. As these Trolls (yes all of you who followed this article over from the other Patch website!) can not allow the people of the Perry Hall patch have our own discussion without it being over run with their own discussion. It is obvious that this topic is a dead horse. I wonder just how many of these people actually live in the Perry Hall Patch area?

[Log in to reply](#)

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

11:39am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

this quiet stage is actually a well documented state of neurogenic shock

(24)Gunnar MR, Fisch RO, Korsvik S, Donhowe JM. The effects of circumcision on serum cortisol and behavior. Psychoneuroendocrinology 1981; 6(3):269-75.

**Cyn**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:00pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"This is MY personal choice."

It's not YOUR penis. It's not a choice that morally belongs to you.

**psandz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

11:35am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Jennifer H says: "What you do with your own children is your own business".

Wrong! Children are not the chattels of their parents. Many Middle-Eastern parents make exactly the same lame excuse for circumcising their daughters.

You say that "many (not all) infants were quiet, content and asleep before the procedure was even over". That is the antithesis of the views of many OBs. Occasionally, the anaesthetic works that well, but often, if not typically, it does not. Many circumcisions in the USA are still performed without anaesthesia, and one of the commonest anaesthetics used is EMLA cream smeared onto the penis (half an hour or so prior to the op). There is NO WAY that EMLA will penetrate deeply enough to numb sufficiently for cutting, and it won't reduce the excruciating pain of ripping the foreskin off the glans.

It's not easy to numb the penis well by administering local (injected) anaesthetic, which is why adults typically choose a G.A. Babies experience pain more intensely than adults do (how would a tiny baby react to your inadvertently spilling hot coffee/tea on him? He would scream! I would cope by saying "ouch"! and probably forgetting it two minutes later).

"Sleeping" babies are often a sign of a shock reaction.

There is no more reason to routinely remove the male prepuce than to remove the female prepuce. It's pretty rare to circumcise babies in Europe (except for Jews/Moslems). There's absolutely no need to do so.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

11:44am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

By this same logic i can perform plastic surgery on my daughters nose. Shes MY daughter. I OWN her, she is MY property, and i can do what i want with her. Of course we know that this is illegal along with unnecessary appendectomies and tonsillectomy's.

**psandz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

11:55am on Saturday, March 5, 2011

I can't resist commenting that the USA seems to be quite a "control-freak" nation. In terms of ethics,



that sort of attitude (i.e. it's MY right to rule over MY son's penis!") sounds out-dated in most developed nations.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:01pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

this goes back to the anti sexual Victorian era. The USA is still back in the 1800's

**Jakew**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:10pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

I suspect you've misunderstood, Psandz. I don't think that Jennifer means to suggest that she owns her son or his penis, or that she "rules" over it. Rather, I think she's pointing out that, as his parent, it is her decision to make (you might not like that, but it is presently the case), and it can seem rather intrusive when activists try to interfere in parental decisions.

**Jenny**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:13pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Oh, I forgot to mention. The foreskin is fused to the glans by the same kind of membrane that fuses your fingernail to your finger. So it is excruciating for this to be ripped apart as you can imagine and can cause damage to the glans which parts of it can come up along with the foreskin just like when you try to separate a sticker from the window some of the sticker is left behind. Natural retraction of the foreskin from the glans may not happen until puberty or adulthood. This is the reason why circumcision is particularly damaging and excruciating as a baby or child.

Also, since male and female genitals form in utero from the same area on the fetus and have equal number of nerves. So as ardently as you would protect your baby girl from being cut, you should protect your baby boy, their parts are more similar than different. See this link for the photo of babies development in utero: at <http://www.drmmomma.org/2009/09/history-of-female-circumcision->

**Jakew**[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:22pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"Oh, I forgot to mention. The foreskin is fused to the glans by the same kind of membrane that fuses your fingernail to your finger. So it is excruciating for this to be ripped apart as you can imagine and can cause damage to the glans which parts of it can come up along with the foreskin just like when you try to separate a sticker from the window some of the sticker is left behind." -- some years ago I asked an OB/GYN friend about this. His response was to laugh. It is a wild exaggeration to compare it to the nail bed; a closer analogy, he says, is the labels one sometimes finds on poultry. This is verifiable, I think, if one looks at a videoed circumcision -- when forceps are used to separate the layers it is possible to judge how much force is being used. Clearly, it is at least an order of magnitude less than that which would be needed to separate the nail from the fingertip.

**Craig Ginsberg**[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:30pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

I doubt many circumcised men imagine their pitting and adhesion's from forced separation. There are many pictures and people that can testify to the damage of forced separation. You would not know this damage because you were circumcised as an adult.

**Jakew**[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:15pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

I'm sure that glans damage does sometimes occur, likely due to carelessness with the forceps and subsequent nicking of the glans itself. Complications do sometimes happen, unfortunately. Nevertheless, there's no need to exaggerate the difficulty of separating the surfaces.

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

3:22pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

and there's no need to undermine the difficulty of it. Pitting and adhesion's always happen, they just not noticed or reported. Adhesion's and pitting are most obvious under a magnifying glass and they are a routine consequence of forced separation.

**Jakew**

Flag as inappropriate

3:27pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Well Craig, if you ever find some evidence in support of that claim, I'd be interested to see it.

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

6:54pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

here it is

"adhesions (25.6%),"(1)

(1)Van Howe RS. Variability in penile appearance and penile findings: a prospective study. Br J Urol 1997; 80: 776-782.<http://www.cirp.org/library/complications/vanhowe/>

**psandz**

Flag as inappropriate

12:21pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

You're making me feel guilty now, since my research indicates that the US custom or tradition to circumcise babies was "imported" to the USA by Victorian England, when Americans like Kellogg embraced it like a long-lost friend, and spread it throughout the USA.

Fortunately, the British had the common sense to start phasing it out from the early 1950s. No British

medical institution wants to see newborn circumcision return as common practice in the UK. In fact, as I pointed out, it's quite hard to even find a urologist willing to circumcise a baby unnecessarily. Most will refuse to do it "point-blank"!

I don't know any Britons who want to get their sons circumcised nowadays, although I'm sure there must be a few lingering ones. We're the same as the other Europeans in that respect. Very different from the USA!

[Log in to reply](#)

**Jakew**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:32pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Circumcision is certainly less common in Britain than in the US, but there are some signs that demand for infant circumcision is increasing. While I'm not aware of any formal studies, there are clues such as the growth of private circumcision clinics, of which there were very few ten years ago, but now they are almost plentiful. Supply and demand are distinct from one another, of course, but supply tends to follow demand. On the other hand, certain parts of the country are still poorly served - I know one mother who had to travel from Scotland to London to have her son circumcised.

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:35pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

if there is a rise this is only due to the spread and growth of islam

**Cyn**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:02pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

@psandz - obviously Britain is much smarter than America is on this issue.

**psandz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:28pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Jakew, the strength of the fusion between foreskin and glans will vary between infants, just as the age when it frees up varies. I'm not in a position to compare the ripping of the foreskin off the glans to ripping off a fingernail. That's not my analogy. In many cases, it may be equally painful.

[Log in to reply](#)

**psandz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

12:40pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Jakew, there may well be a small rise in the incidence of circumcision in the UK. probably in line with the growth of Islam. If Islam is on the march here, you may have to look out for yourself! I would of course protect you, if it were in my power. And I would be equally concerned as you.

[Log in to reply](#)

**psandz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:02pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

I added "of course" in my above statement, because I hope it is widely known by now in these circles, from my comments, that I am an ethical person.

**psandz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:56pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Jake, you've just cited the CDC consultation article called: "Male Circumcision in the United States for the Prevention of HIV Infection and Other Adverse Health Outcomes".

We can see immediately that the CDC article is irrational and a professional disgrace. Just-read the heading of the article: "Male circumcision..for the Prevention of HIV infection..." ANYONE, reasonably well infomed, should know that circumcision does NOT "prevent" HIV! At best, it may reduce infection (although there is no good evidence of this on the CDC's home turf - the USA!) There is no

good evidence that HIV or other STDs are more prevalent in uncircumcised US men than in circumcised US men. Studies in the USA are far too conflicting to draw this conclusion.

On page 75, under "Evidence of potential adverse outcomes of MC in the USA", the authors cite the highly flawed UTI studies performed in US army hospitals from 1980 to 1985 as evidence of a significant protective effect of circumcision against UTIs. Those studies are methodologically flawed (as admitted by the AAP for similar studies), and hence present invalid evidence for a protective effect. Those UTI studies made no attempt to consider important confounding factors.

Yet when the authors mention studies on adverse outcomes (same page), they are ready to criticise such studies for not assessing "likely confounders"!

The CDC shows a shocking pro-circumcision bias, and have engineered a disgracefully misinformed article.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Jakew**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:12pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"ANYONE, reasonably well informed, should know that circumcision does NOT "prevent" HIV! At best, it may reduce infection" -- well, if you reduce the number of infections, then what has happened to the HIV cases that would otherwise have occurred? They've been prevented.

"There is no good evidence that HIV or other STDs are more prevalent in uncircumcised US men than in circumcised US men" -- actually, there is some evidence, cited by the CDC in their factsheet (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/circumcision.htm>). But the main problem here is that you're imposing unreasonable criteria. A penis in the US is very much the same as a penis elsewhere, so there's no logical basis for demanding US-based studies.

"On page 75, under "Evidence of potential adverse outcomes of MC in the USA", the authors cite the highly flawed UTI studies performed in US army hospitals from 1980 to 1985 as evidence of a significant protective effect of circumcision against UTIs." -- we've discussed this at length in the other thread, and there seems little point in going over it again. The important points to note are that a) the protective effect against UTI is well-established, and it doesn't really matter which study is cited as evidence, and b) the study cited provided useful complication data, which were discussed.

I'm sorry that you disagree with their paper, but it is perfectly reasonable.

**psandz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:58pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Jake says: "well, if you reduce the number of infections, then [HIV cases] have been prevented." We can argue on semantics till the cows come home, but "prevention" is misleading, and by using it, the CDC displays an instinctive or visceral circumcision bias. It's from such irresponsible professional statements that some men come away with the notion that condoms are only an option for circumcised men. Out of the Anglophone nations, probably only the USA would misuse the word in that context, when English has other, more accurate ones.

Jake says there's some evidence, cited by the CDC, that circumcision is protective against STDs in the USA. There is just about as much evidence that it doesn't!

Yes, I suppose a penis is the same anywhere. The uncircumcised penis has not caused a large HIV epidemic in any developed nation, although it apparently has somehow in Africa!

Circumcision may well have SOME apparent protective effect against UTIs. But because there are very, very few reliable UTI studies performed, a protective effect cannot be generally evaluated. Circumcision of infants may cause meatitis.

Removal of newborn foreskin may reduce the capacity of the immune system to counter infection later in life (this actually is a reasonable hypothesis). The picture is too complex to support an overall beneficial effect for routine circumcision. It is medical arrogance, ignorance, if not wishful thinking, to assert that it is associated with net benefit.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Jakew**

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3:08pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"We can argue on semantics till the cows come home, but "prevention" is misleading, and by using it, the CDC displays an instinctive or visceral circumcision bias." -- You seem to have avoided my point that, in fact, their usage is correct.

"Yes, I suppose a penis is the same anywhere. The uncircumcised penis has not caused a large HIV epidemic in any developed nation, although it apparently has somehow in Africa!" -- I don't think anyone has claimed that the foreskin has caused an HIV epidemic anywhere. It's more



reasonable to say that the epidemic in some of sub-Saharan Africa is worse than it might have been due to low circumcision rates.

"Circumcision may well have SOME apparent protective effect against UTIs. But because there are very, very few reliable UTI studies performed, a protective effect cannot be generally evaluated." -- I think you're setting unreasonable requirements for these studies, ignoring the forest for the trees. And I'm not surprised that the CDC are taking a more (if I may say so) level-headed approach.

"Removal of newborn foreskin may reduce the capacity of the immune system to counter infection later in life" -- show me some data in support of this claim and I'll look into it. In the meantime, data that *are* available support the viewpoint that there is a net benefit (albeit probably a small one).

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:19pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

empirical observations are even better than study's.

It is important to note that women have a higher risk of UTI. This is because the shorter urethra offers less protection via the immunological function of the urethra's mucosal lining. By the same observation we see that the tubular tip of the foreskin, and its mucosal lining, act as an extension of the urethra hence providing more of that same protection via mucosa immunology and the adherence of antibacterial substances in breast milk.

**Jakew**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:23pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"By the same observation we see that the tubular tip of the foreskin, and its mucosal lining, act as an extension of the urethra hence providing more of that same protection via mucosa immunology and the adherence of antibacterial substances in breast milk." -- fanciful thinking. The reality is that there have been some 25 or so studies of circumcision and UTI, and the protective effect of circumcision is seen with remarkable consistency.

**Stan Barnes**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:47pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

There are effective, non-invasive methods for treating UTIs in both boys and girls.

I find it astonishing that in 2011 some people still try to justify cutting off a normal, healthy part of a child's genitals when there is no compelling reason to do so.

**Stan Barnes**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:23pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"Why is circumcision so controversial?"

Male circumcision is controversial because there is NO compelling reason for a doctor to cut off a normal, healthy part of a non-Muslim and non-Jewish boy's penis. Male circumcision is a permanent, irreversible form of body modification. A growing number of American men wish they had not been circumcised as infants.

[Log in to reply](#)

**psandz**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:29pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

I said: "Removal of newborn foreskin may reduce the capacity of the immune system to counter infection later in life."

Jake replied: "show me some data in support of this claim and I'll look into it."

I haven't researched it, except very briefly (I drew a blank). There may be no experimental or empirical data on it. Of interest to me, is whether immunologists might find my conjecture plausible. I think this whole debate on circumcision benefits (especially vs. risks) is very theoretical, and lacking in robust empirical evidence.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Craig Ginsberg**[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:55pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

from my notes:

The foreskins inner fold and the glans of the penis are comprised of mucous membrane tissue. These are also present in your eyes, mouth, and all other bodily orifices including the female genitals. These are the first line of immunological defensive for the body's orifices. These mucous membranes perform many immunological and hygienic functions. Certain components such as Langerhans cells [7], plasma cells [8], apocrine glands [9], and sebaceous glands [10], collectively secrete emolliating lubricants [11]. Apocrine glands perform a crucial function by secreting enzymes such as lysosomal enzymes, cathepsin B, chymotrypsin, and neutrophil elastase. [12] There is also strong research to suggest that lysozyme can protect against HIV infection [13]. Apocrine glands also produce cytokine, [14] cytokine is a very important nonantibody protein that generates immune response when in contact with specific agents. Plasma cells secrete immunoglobulin. [15] It is also very important to note that Langerhans cells that are present in the foreskin produce Langerin, a substance that has been proven to kill the HIV virus on contact. [16] All of these function to sequester and "digest" foreign pathogens. All these substances play an important role in protecting the penis from viral and bacterial pathogens. The immunological functions of the human prepuce have been extensively documented by respected researchers for quite some time. [17]

**Craig Ginsberg**[Flag as inappropriate](#)

3:56pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

In infancy, simple sugars in breast milk, like antibacterial oligosaccharides, are acquired from the mother's milk and excreted in urine. [18] University studies have shown that these substances cling to the mucosal lining of the inner foreskin and protect against urinary tract infections, as well as infections in other parts of the body [19]. Babies excrete in their urine about 300-500 milligrams of oligosaccharides each day. These compounds prevent virulent strains of *Escherichia coli* from adhering to the mucosal lining of the entire urinary tract, including the foreskin and glans. For these reasons breast-milk is highly efficacious at preventing UTI. [20] Rigorous study's have repeatedly demonstrated that breast feeding protects against urinary tract infections. [21] [22] [23] Researchers have shown that premature foreskin retraction can expose

the penis to hospital strains of Escherichia coli and can result in UTI. [24] Hence the protective function of the foreskin is in the child's best interest especially during chemically treated diaper wearing years where feces mixed with urine can not only contaminate the permanently exposed urinary meatus but also the amputation wound from the circumcision surgery itself.

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

4:14pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

It is important to note that women have a higher risk of UTI. This is because the shorter urethra offers less protection via the immunological function of the urethra's mucosal lining. By the same observation we see that the tubular tip of the foreskin, and its mucosal lining, act as an extension of the urethra hence providing more of that same protection via mucosa immunology and the adherence of antibacterial substances in breast milk.

[edit] References

1. ↑ Hyman AB, Brownstien MH. Tyson's "glands": ectopic sebaceous glands and papillomatosis penis. Arch Dermatol 1969 Jan;99(1):31-6
2. ↑ Parkash S, Jeykumar S, Subramanyan K, Chaudhuri S. Human Subpreputial collection: its nature and formation. J Urol 1973 Aug 110(2):211-2
3. ↑ Parkash S. Penis: some facts and fancies. Journal of Physician's Association pf Madras June 1982: pp.1-13
4. ↑ Diebert GA. The separation of the prepuce in the human penis. Anatomical Record 1993 Nov;57(4):387-99.
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7. ↑ Weiss GN, Sanders M, Westbrook KC. The distribution and density of Langerhans cells in the human prepuce: site of diminished immune response? Isr J Med Sci 1993 Jan;29(1):42-3

**Craig Ginsberg**

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4:15pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

8. ↑ Flower PJ, Ladds PW, Thomas AD, Watson DL. An immunopathologic study on the bovine prepuce. Vet Pathol 1983 Mar;20(2):189-201.
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11. ↑ Parkash S, Jeykumar S, Subramanyan K, Chaudhuri S. Human Subpreputial collection: its nature and formation. J Urol 1973 Aug 110(2):211-2
12. ↑ Frohlich E Shamburg-Lever G, Klesses C. Immunelectron microscopic localization of cathepsin B in human apocrine glands. J Cutan Pathol 1993 Feb;20(1):54-60
13. ↑ George Hill Summary of evidence that the foreskin and lysozyme may protect against HIV infection.7 September 2003 <http://www.cirp.org/library/disease/HIV/hill1/>
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15. ↑ Flower PJ, Ladds PW, Thomas AD, Watson DL. An immunopathologic study on the bovine prepuce. Vet Pathol 1983 Mar;20(2):189-201.
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### Craig Ginsberg

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4:15pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

17. ↑ P M Fleiss, F M Hodges, R S Van Howe. Immunological functions of the human prepuce. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (London), Volume 74, Number 5, Pages 364-367, October 1998.<http://www.cirp.org/library/disease/STD/fleiss3/>
18. ↑ Hanson LA, Karlsson B, Jalil F, et al. Antiviral and antibacterial factors in human milk. In: Hanson LA, ed. Biology of Human Milk. New York Raven Press; 1988. pp. 141-57
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20. ↑ Gothefors L, Olling S, Winberg J. Breastfeeding and biological properties of faecal E. coli

strains. Acta Paediatr Scand 1975 Nov;54(6):807-12

21. ↑ Mårild S. Breastfeeding and Urinary Tract Infections. Lancet 1990;336:942

22. ↑ Pisacane A, et al. Breastfeeding and urinary tract infection. The Lancet, July 7, 1990, p50

23. ↑ Pisacane A, Graziano L, Mazzarella G, et al. Breast-feeding and urinary tract infection. J Pediatr 1992;120:87-89.

24. ↑ Winberg J et al. The Prepuce: A Mistake of Nature? Lancet 1989, pp.598-99.

### Craig Ginsberg

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4:16pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

empirical evidence is best, and here it is

### Jakew

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:19pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"Certain components such as Langerhans cells [7], plasma cells [8] , apocrine glands [9] , and sebaceous glands [10] " -- stop there. Apocrine glands are a type of sweat gland, and neither sweat nor sebaceous glands are present. "unlike true skin of the penile shaft and outer surface of the prepuce, the mucosal surface of the prepuce is completely free of lanugo hair follicles, sweat and sebaceous glands." Taylor JR, et al. The prepuce: specialized mucosa of the penis and its loss to circumcision. Br J Urol 1996;77:291-295. "Postmortem specimens of normal prepuce collected from five neonates, five children under seven years of age and five adults were studied. [...] No secretory tissue or glands were found in any specimen." Lakshmanan S., Prakash S. Human prepuce: some aspects of structure and function. Indian J Surg 1980;44:134-7. "A detailed study of the subpreputial collections and histological study of 128 specimens led us to conclude that there appears to be no evidence of any glandular tissue in the subpreputial region of the penis." Parkash S, et al. Human subpreputial collection: its nature and formation. J Urol 1973;110(2):211-2.

[Here I'm skipping material about apocrine glands. Since they're not present their function is a moot point.]

(continued)

**Jakew**

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4:20pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

(part 2)

"All these substances play an important role in protecting the penis from viral and bacterial pathogens." -- this is a testable hypothesis: if true, we should see evidence of lower risk of local inflammation and urinary tract infection. But what we \*actually\* see is the opposite, indicating that you're missing the bigger picture.

"University studies have shown that these substances cling to the mucosal lining of the inner foreskin and protect against urinary tract infections, as well as infections in other parts of the body [19]" -- You cite Coppa et al here, who don't even mention the foreskin. Did you mean to cite another source instead?

"By the same observation we see that the tubular tip of the foreskin, and its mucosal lining, act as an extension of the urethra hence providing more of that same protection via mucosa immunology and the adherence of antibacterial substances in breast milk." -- as noted previously, if this were the case, we'd see evidence of increased risk of UTI in circumcised boys. We don't. When evidence consistently refutes a hypothesis, it's usually time to find a better hypothesis.

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

4:27pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

referring to my references above

The foreskin, like the eyelid, also serves an important protective and hygienic function. The foreskin protects the delicate glans of the penis and puts the urethra at a distance from its environment protecting it from foreign contaminants of all kinds. While simultaneously shielding the penis from injury. It is a double fold of skin which offers two layers of protection.

Natural secretions of oil are achieved by sebaceous glands which are abundant in the foreskins inner lining, these are not present in the glans. [1] They are also present in the eye lid and

perform the same function in both places. They secrete the oils necessary to keep the glans surface soft, moist, warm, sensitive, and with a healthy red or purple color. This moisturizer keeps the surface of the glans glistening, smooth, soft, maintained PH balance, and optimal cleanliness. This is required to keep the surface of the glans healthy and clean via the cleaning effects of mucous secretions. This function is analogous to the eye lid. The glans are meant to be an internal organ covered and protected from the outside world.

**Craig Ginsberg**

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4:27pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

In the genitally intact penis the urine stream flushes out the urethra and foreskin of foreign microbes. In healthy individuals, urine is sterile and has a disinfectant quality. Researchers have demonstrated that the swirling action of urine as it rushes through the foreskin flushes it out effortlessly and naturally. [2] Though urine passes through the foreskin every day, the inner foreskin is remarkably free of urea-a by-product of liver metabolism that is secreted in urine. Studies demonstrate that washings from the foreskin are rich in fructose, acid phosphatase, and mucin, but never urea. It appears that the secretions of seminal vesicles, prostate, and urethral mucous glands, collectively or individually, keep the foreskin clear and clean as well. [3] At birth, the foreskin is usually attached to the glans(head) of the penis, akin to how a fingernail is attached to a finger. [4] At infancy the foreskins tubular neck(prepuccial orifice) is often long and narrow while the sphincter muscle in the tip of the foreskin keeps its opening closed. This acts as an extension of the urethra. [5] [6] Together these property's prevent the entry of contaminants. The idea that the foreskin is "dirty" or "unclean" is a scientifically unfounded superstition. The intact penis is naturally clean and maintains a level of hygiene that is optimal when compared to a penis that has been altered by circumcision.

**Craig Ginsberg**

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:31pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

correcting my sentence

In infancy, simple sugars in breast milk, like antibacterial oligosaccharides, are acquired from the



mothers milk and excreted in urine. University studies have shown that these substances cling to the mucosal lining of the inner foreskin and protect against urinary tract infections [18] , as well as infections in other parts of the body [19]

**Craig Ginsberg**

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4:36pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"Apocrine glands are a type of sweat gland, and neither sweat nor sebaceous glands are present." try checking the references i actually used.

**Jakew**

Flag as inappropriate

4:39pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"The foreskin, like the eyelid, also serves an important protective and hygienic function. The foreskin protects the delicate glans of the penis and puts the urethra at a distance from its environment protecting it from foreign contaminants of all kinds." -- more to the point, it holds contaminants in a warm, moist sac in close proximity to the urethral meatus.

"Natural secretions of oil are achieved by sebaceous glands which are abound in the foreskins inner lining," -- as I pointed out above, these don't exist. You did read my reply, didn't you?

"In the genitally intact penis the urine stream flushes out the urethra and foreskin of foreign microbes" -- if that were so, studies that sampled the urethra and glans would consistently find fewer pathogenic bacteria in the uncircumcised male. But the opposite is true (see refs below).

"At birth, the foreskin is usually attached to the glans(head) of the penis, akin to how a fingernail is attached to a finger." -- another claim that we've already discussed.

(continued)

**Jakew**

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4:39pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Serour F, et al. Comparative periurethral bacteriology of uncircumcised and circumcised males. *Genitourin Med.* 1997 Aug; 73(4): 288-90

Fussell EN, et al. Adherence of bacteria to human foreskins. *J Urol.* 1988 Nov; 140(5): 997-1001

Wiswell TE, et al. Effect of circumcision status on periurethral bacterial flora during the first year of life. *J Pediatr.* 1988 Sep; 113(3): 442-6

Glennon J, et al. Circumcision and periurethral carriage of *Proteus mirabilis* in boys. *Arch Dis Child.* 1988 May; 63(5): 556-7

Neubert U, Lentze I. The bacterial flora of preputial space. *Hautarzt.* 1979 Mar;30(3):149-53

Cascio S, et al. Bacterial colonization of the prepuce in boys with vesicoureteral reflux who receive antibiotic prophylaxis. *J Pediatr.* 2001 Jul; 139(1): 160-2

Savas C, et al. Comparison of preputial sac and urine cultures in healthy children. *Int Urol Nephrol.* 2000; 32(1): 85-7

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Bhargava RK, Thin RN. Subpreputial carriage of aerobic micro-organisms and balanitis. *Br J Vener Dis.* 1983 Apr; 59(2): 131-3

Jackson DH, et al. Carriage and transmission of group B streptococci among STD clinic patients. *Br J Vener Dis.* 1982 Oct; 58(5): 334-7

**Craig Ginsberg**

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4:51pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

how many UTi's do you think one botched circ is worth?

**Jakew**

Flag as inappropriate

4:52pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

""Apocrine glands are a type of sweat gland, and neither sweat nor sebaceous glands are present." try checking the references i actually used." -- your ref 9 is a case report of

problematic apocrine glands affecting the prepuce. It does not indicate whether they were on the inner or outer layer. Ref 10 is unclear, but the abstract does appear to imply that the presence of these glands has at least been claimed. Now, do you have a response to the evidence I cited?

**Jakew**

Flag as inappropriate

4:55pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"how many UTi's do you think one botched circ is worth?" -- I think it would depend on the severity of the UTIs and the degree of botching. Are we talking about a severe UTI causing major kidney damage and subsequent problems? Or are we talking about a minor UTI? Are we talking about a circumcision so badly botched that the penis is lost? Or are we talking about a crooked scarline?

**Craig Ginsberg**

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5:10pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

How did wiswell get his sample? where the babies breast feed? where they pre-mature?

Wiswell TE, et al. Effect of circumcision status on periurethral bacterial flora during the first year of life. J Pediatr. 1988 Sep; 113(3): 442-6

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

5:16pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

people didnt know study section bias was a co founding factor until the effect of breast milk was studied

19. ↑ Coppa GV, Gabrielli O, Giorgi P, Catassi C, Montanari MP, Veraldo PE, Nichols BL. Preliminary study of breast feeding and bacterial adhesion to uroepithelial cells. Lemcet 1990 Mar 10;335(8689):569-71.

**Jakew**

Flag as inappropriate

5:23pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

"in 1988 the only intact children in the hospital where premature and un-breast feed Glennon J, et al. Circumcision and periurethral carriage of Proteus mirabilis in boys. Arch Dis Child. 1988 May; 63(5): 556-7" -- in Ireland? Are you serious?

"Ectopic sebaceous glands concentrated near the frenulum produce smegma" -- Craig, instead of making the same claims over and over again I really think you ought to address the studies I've already presented, which clearly state that there are no glands in the subpreputial space.

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

5:45pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

we should do rigours studys on weather cutting off noses and ears are "beneficial". We should do study's on how beneficial preemptive breast amputation is. Where are these study's? Why don't they exist?

I NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS FOR MY CHILD.

**Craig Ginsberg**

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6:25pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

GreaT!

They measured bacterial rates in dead, amputated, chemically treated prepuces inoculated with virulent strains of pathogenic bacteria--conditions that represent no known biological or behavioural reality.

That must make fussels findings, good right?

Fussell EN, et al. Adherence of bacteria to human foreskins. J Urol. 1988 Nov; 140(5): 997-1001

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

6:33pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Ectopic sebaceous glands concentrated near the frenulum produce smegma  
Taylor failed to identify them.

<http://www.cirp.org/library/disease/STD/fleiss3/>

# Delbanco E. Über das gehäufte Auftreten von Talgdrüsen an der Innerfläche des Präputium.

Monatshefte für praktische Dermatologie 1904; 38:536-8.

# Hyman AB, Brownstein MD. Tyson's "glands," sebaceous glands and papillomatosis penis.

Arch Dermatol 1969;99:31-7.

# Piccinno R, Carrel C-F, Menni S. et al. sebaceous glands mimicking molluscum contagiosum

Acta Derm Venerol 1990;70:344-5.

# Krompecher St. Die Histologie der Absonderung für Smegma Praeputi. Anatomischer Anzeiger  
1932; 75:170-176.

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

7:04pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

altho p was not less than 0.05

skin disease that were twice those of uncircumcized males

<http://www.cirp.org/library/complications/enzenauer1/>

**Craig Ginsberg**

Flag as inappropriate

8:17pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

in this one(1) The circumcised boys were older and we all know that UTI rate decreases with  
age in men.

they also said

"this hardly seems justifiable Bering in mind that the operation is not without risk."

i wonder what the results would be if the stuck the swab in the urethra of circumcised boys.  
(1)Glennon J, et al. Circumcision and periurethral carriage of Proteus mirabilis in boys. Arch Dis Child. 1988 May; 63(5): 556-7

**Jenny**

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7:18pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Can you shut up Jake, this is a human rights issue and you look so dumb defending baby cutting.

[Log in to reply](#)

**Hugh7**

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8:31pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

To your original question,- why is there no absolute medical recommendation? - because infant circumcision is not a real medical procedure. There is no other normal, healthy, functional, non-renewable part of the human anatomy that is removed at parental whim with no diagnosis other than "live birth (male)". The medical "reasons" were all found - actually invented - after circumcision was customary.

You can see the kind of medical sophistry at work when Jakew starts defending circumcising healthy babies by reference to that small subset of UTIs (already rare at ~1 in 100 boy babies - commner in girls - and treatable) so severe they cause kidney damage, which must be phenomenally rare (and accompanied by neglect).

The other thing indicating that circumcision is not just a medical procedure to prevent medical conditions is the VAST number of unconnected and often contradictory reasons for doing it. (See <http://www.circumstitions.com/Stitions&refs.html>) It is no coincidence that circumcision is a prehistoric modification of the sexual organs, though many of the reasons now given have ostensibly no connection to sex.

Circumcision is a memplex (a cluster of units of culture, transmitted by imitation). See <http://www.circumstitions.com/meme.html> But that is only part of the story. The full reason it has such a hold on human culture has yet to be fully explained.

[Log in to reply](#)

Cyn

Flag as inappropriate

9:26pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Circumcision does not prevent HIV. The claims that it does are often based on the highly flawed African studies.

Further info:

<http://www.doctorsopposingcircumcision.org/info/HIVStatement.html>

<http://www.cirp.org/library/disease/HIV/vanhowe2005a/>

<http://www.cirp.org/library/disease/HIV/>

<http://www.circumstitions.com/HIV.html>

[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_6869/is\\_10\\_98/ai\\_n32398719/?tag=content;col1](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_6869/is_10_98/ai_n32398719/?tag=content;col1)

Log in to reply

Cyn

Flag as inappropriate

9:32pm on Saturday, March 5, 2011

Complications of circumcision:

<http://www.circumstitions.com/Complic.html>

How to identify circumcision damage in the adult male:

<http://www.noharmm.org/IDcirc.htm>

Circumcision and psychological harm:

[http://www.norm-uk.org/circumcision\\_psychological\\_effects.html](http://www.norm-uk.org/circumcision_psychological_effects.html)

Male genital mutilation in America (warning - graphic video of infants being assaulted):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDuDhkiDdns>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXVFFI76ff0>

The tragic story of David Reimer:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFMfrBWM7\\_A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFMfrBWM7_A)

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*The editor has closed comments for this article.*



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