

Considering Circumcision for Your Son?

Circumcising your infant boy is a serious and risky decision that has life-long ramifications.

Before you go forward, please fervently research these points.

Why are male infants in the United States of America routinely circumcised at birth?

Circumcision of children and adults has occurred in the world since before recorded history, usually as a religious rite. Since the late 1800s, it has been promoted in the US and some other countries as medically needed. Doctors have purported that circumcision of males prevents masturbation and overactive sex drive (back when those were thought to be harmful), epilepsy, paralysis, irritability, cancer, and multiple sexually-transmitted infections. With the medicalization of childbirth in the early-to-mid 1900s, circumcision became a routine hospital procedure done to virtually all infant boys, often without even asking or notifying the parents beforehand. Most other countries do not routinely circumcise infant boys, and approximately 70% of the world's men are intact. In countries where intact is normal and correct care is practiced, almost no males need a circumcision for medical reasons.

How is circumcision performed?

Doctors and hospitals use three different methods: the Plastibell, the Gomco Clamp, and the Mogen Clamp. Each method first requires the insertion of a probe to break away the connective membrane adhering the foreskin to the glans (penis head) and cutting away the healthy tissue. Some doctors use minimal pain relief, but many infant boys feel the entire procedure and go into shock. Infants undergoing circumcision are typically restrained by a circumstraint, a plastic molded board with Velcro straps that tie down his limbs.

What are the risks of circumcision?

The number one risk factor that occurs in 100% of circumcised infants is the loss of the foreskin. Far from being unnecessary, the foreskin contains an estimated 20,000 nerve endings designed for pleasure, it keeps the glans healthy, clean, moist, and sensitive, and it protects the urethra from contaminants. Other risks of circumcision include infection of the wound, excessive blood loss, too much or too little foreskin removed, adhesions/skin bridges, meatal stenosis, painful and tight erections later in life, accidental amputation or mutilation of the glans, and death from hemorrhage or infection.

To continue your research, please visit YourWholeBaby.org, watch Georgetown University Professor Ryan McAllister's *An Elephant in the Hospital* on YouTube, and ask your care professional why s/he recommends keeping babies intact.



Your Whole Baby™