

35 Reasons Why You Should Not Circumcise Your Son

Circumcision may be only a 15-minute operation, *but it affects a male for the next 72 years of his expected life*. Doesn't it seem prudent that you should forego circumcising your son and wait for the controversy on this issue to settle, and then let your son decide if he wants to be circumcised? After all, it's *his* penis.

1. The idea that the child should “match” the father is one of the most common reasons parents give for having their son circumcised. But in light of the information in preceding chapters, we now realize that the father should not have been circumcised in the first place, so it makes no sense to circumcise the child just because the father is circumcised. No man who understands how circumcision affects his sexual functioning would have consented to his own infant circumcision.

The father will have to be magnanimous and accept the fact that his son's penis will be different from his. But after all, isn't one of the purposes of parenthood to make a better life for our children than we had for ourselves? Besides, if the father restores his foreskin, the two of them will actually match very well.

2. Perhaps you already have a son who is circumcised, and you may therefore be considering that subsequent sons should be circumcised too, so they will not be “different” from one another. It is unfortunate that your previous son was circumcised, but each child is an individual. Your decision should be based on what you now know.
3. Some parents have their son circumcised so he will look like “the other kids” in the locker room, but keep in mind that since 1980, the U.S. circumcision rate has dropped about 25 percent (1). America’s attitude about circumcision is changing, and in the years ahead, more and more kids in the locker room will be sporting natural penises.
4. Nature had her reasons for giving your little boy a foreskin. Doesn’t it seem prudent to trust Mother Nature’s judgment on this matter?
5. Approximately 80% of the world’s men have natural penises. Circumcision is not the standard in the world; it is the exception.
6. Circumcision is a human rights issue. To retain the genitals one was born with is a birthright. It is the child’s body, not the parents’. Why should parents be allowed to authorize amputation of a perfectly healthy piece of the child’s flesh, one that provides vital protective and sexual functions? Removing part of the child’s penis censors him from perceiving, experiencing, sharing, and enjoying his existence.
7. Circumcision is unwarranted surgery and has been thought so for some time. As early as 1978, the Executive Board of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) issued a statement of policy headed: STATEMENT ON NEONATAL CIRCUMCISION. The opening pronouncement reads:

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (OB/GYN) supports the position of the AAP [American Academy of Pediatrics] ad hoc Task Force on Circumcision (1975) that ‘there is no absolute medical indication for routine circumcision of the newborn’ (2).

Unlike the AAP, which published its 1975 position in *Pediatrics*, its official journal, thereby achieving wide dissemination, ACOG sent the STATEMENT ON NEONATAL CIRCUMCISION to its own members via the *ACOG Newsletter*. The “STATEMENT” was not published in the *ACOG Journal* and is not listed in *Index Medicus* (3).

Unfortunately, many members of the medical community were not then, and are not now, aware of the above proclaimed (and subsequent) official positions on circumcision, so they continue to recommend it. Therefore, it is your responsibility to tell your doctor that you do not want your son circumcised. By reading this book, you have acquired information that your doctor may not be aware of. Assertively tell your doctor that you do not want your son circumcised. Take care to see that your wishes are followed through. In some hospitals circumcision is so routine it may be done even though you’ve indicated otherwise. Beware!

8. As the facts of this issue unfold, more and more childbirth educators are advising against routine circumcision.
9. The Delegates of Family Practice and the College of Pediatric Urologists are in general agreement that infant circumcision is contraindicated and provides no valid medical or hygienic benefits (4).
10. Prince Charles of England is circumcised, as it has long been the custom of British royalty to do so. Princess Di insisted that her sons *not* be circumcised. Attitudes are changing. More people are deciding against circumcision.

11. The natural penis is capable of providing greater sexual pleasure than the circumcised penis, for both the man and his female partner. There are immeasurable differences between natural and circumcised sex, and although the psychological and sociological repercussions are just beginning to be discussed, I am confident that we will find that the two types of sex have different effects on the emotions and love bond of the participants.
12. Premature ejaculation is more common among circumcised males according to the results of the survey.
13. The penis head (glans) is designed by nature to be an *internal* organ, like the tongue. Removing the protective foreskin makes the glans an *external* organ.
14. Circumcision may leave psychological scars, the extent of which are only now beginning to be recognized. Below are excerpts from three letters received at the office of UNCIRC (5).

“I have been angry about the subject of infant circumcision for some time. It started when I realized that it was one of the factors in my taking so long to climax with my sexual partner. How could a country that calls itself civilized do such a horrible thing to its little boys? My thought is that parents have no right to consent to unnecessary surgical procedures on their children anyway.” S.R., Ohio

“Throughout my entire life, I’ve always felt frustrated, never sexually fulfilled, always feeling as if something were missing...now I know...I was robbed of the most sensitive part of my penis on day one.” B.Y., Arkansas

“This subject is unfortunately for me a lifetime nightmare. It all started the day I was born, March 7, 1951, at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa, Florida—a time when routine genital mutilations were performed. Ever since I can remember, I always knew something was wrong with my penis. I guess it was 1959 or 1960 when I realized what was wrong. My best friend’s oldest brother was intact, and it was the first time I ever saw a complete penis. I knew then what was wrong with mine. I remember feeling this sick sense of loss, and continue to until this day in 1990, and will probably go to my grave with it.” M. H., Oregon

15. Circumcising your son may cause you grievous guilt feelings later, after you realize that you should have kept him intact. Since the circumcision rate is dropping and in all probability will continue to drop, by the time your child reaches adulthood, the natural penis will be the accepted norm.
16. If you have your child circumcised, he will very likely mourn your decision when he is older. Circumcision can make a child feel distressed, when he’s an adult, about the hostile feelings he has toward his parents because they had him circumcised.
17. The natural penis is more visually appealing. All of the famous sculptures in Europe depict intact men. Some American parents may consider circumcising because they think the natural penis looks funny or odd. But this is because they are not used to looking at a natural penis; they have been conditioned to think of the circumcised penis as the “normal” look. In the future, when the natural penis is the norm, people will think that the circumcised penis looks mutilated. Many survey respondents found the natural penis more visually appealing. Here are a few of their comments:

“To me, looking at the bared circumcised glans routinely in a non-sexual setting is a complete turn-off.”

“I like to look at the natural penis much better than to see a circumcised penis. A natural penis looks more beautiful and desirable.”

“The visual effect of seeing an impending erection just starting to peek out of its foreskin is just so much sexier.”

“I like to look at the natural penis, and it tends to turn me on more than circumcised ones.”

“I have come to prefer the natural penis because it is visually and emotionally more appealing to me.”

18. The natural penis does not need any special care during infancy. Its foreskin should never be forcibly retracted during bathing or routine visits to the doctor. Simply wash the exterior of the penis in the same way you normally wash any other part of the body. In the words of the American Academy of Pediatrics:

Care of the uncircumcised boy is quite easy. ‘Leave it alone’ is good advice. External washing and rinsing on a daily basis is all that is required. Do not retract the foreskin in an infant, as it is almost always attached to the glans. Forcing the foreskin back may harm the penis, causing pain, bleeding, and possibly adhesions. The natural separation of the foreskin from the glans may take many years [usually by age 5, but occasionally into the late teens]. After puberty, the adult male learns to retract the foreskin and cleanse under it on a daily basis (6).

19. Leaving the foreskin intact will *not* cause your child to masturbate excessively. An adolescent or adult male will usually masturbate whether he is circumcised or not. In fact, more and more authorities are acknowledging that masturbation is a natural part of development.
20. The foreskin glides up and down the shaft during masturbation. When the foreskin is missing, the man's hand frictionizes the shaft and usually requires an artificial lubricant. When the foreskin is present, artificial lubrication is unnecessary.
21. The foreskin is necessary in order to give the erect penis the extra skin it needs for a comfortable erection. In contrast, the tight, taut skin of the erect circumcised penis can be uncomfortable, even to the point of pain.
22. By removing the penis's only moving part, it makes foreplay less fun for his sexual partner. One survey respondent stated this best when she said:

The natural penis offers variety—skin forward, skin back, etc.—like the excitement of a convertible car.

23. A common misconception is that if you don't have your son circumcised in infancy, he will have to have it done later in life. This is simply not true. American doctors, who have little experience with adult (or boyhood) foreskin problems (which rarely occur), such as infection, are quick to recommend circumcision as the only solution. However, if a child were to develop an ear infection instead, the doctor's approach would be to first try conservative treatments like warm compresses, increased fluid intake, dietary changes, supplementary vitamins, antibiotics, and if necessary, an incision to drain the area—but not amputation. In Europe, this is the type of treatment physicians administer for a rarely occurring infection of the foreskin, rather than

amputation, because they have a greater appreciation for the importance of the foreskin. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 17.

24. Circumcising an infant to prevent cancer of the penis in later life runs contrary to sound reasoning. Cancer of the penis is extremely rare and does not usually occur until old age. Why should a man be denied the pleasures of a fully functioning penis for his entire lifetime when only about one male in 100,000 ever contracts the disease, and then, only in his old age? Keep in mind, these statistics indicate there is a 99,999 chance in 100,000 that he will *not* get cancer of the penis. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that circumcision will absolutely prevent penile cancer, as both circumcised and uncircumcised men can contract it. This topic is discussed in Chapter 18.
25. Routinely circumcising baby boys to prevent venereal disease in adulthood also runs contrary to sound reasoning. Venereal disease is rampant in this country, even though the vast majority of males are circumcised. Clearly, circumcision does not prevent VD. Chapter 18 contains a more detailed discussion.
26. Routinely circumcising males as a preventative for infant urinary-tract infection (UTI) is the latest medical excuse advocated to justify circumcision (discussed in detail in Chapter 18). UTI's are rare and can be effectively treated with antibiotics. Furthermore, the rate of infant UTI among females is significantly higher than that for males, yet no one is advocating routine female circumcision.
27. Some proponents of routine circumcision erroneously believe that it helps prevent cervical cancer in women. Those who have seriously studied the facts found no correlation between cancer of the cervix and the presence of a foreskin on a woman's sexual partner. Chapter 18 discusses this more thoroughly.

28. Circumcision hurts. Infants feel pain, and this unwarranted surgery, done without anesthesia, is traumatic for the newborn child. Most babies scream frantically during their circumcisions. Some stop breathing and lapse into a semi-conscious state. The degree of psychological effects of this pain, inflicted so early in life, may be more profound than most Americans realize (7). See Chapter 17 for more details.
29. Circumcision can result in serious medical complications, and there are definite surgical risks involved. Hemorrhage, infection, scarring, fistula, meatal ulceration, excessive penile skin loss, accidental injury or amputation of the glans or part or all of the penis, as well as other complications, are not uncommon. Circumcisions have occasionally resulted in death. Much of the acceptance by parents of infant circumcision is based on the false belief that circumcision is insignificant, trivial, inconsequential, painless, and free of risks. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Actually, it could be said that the complication rate for circumcision is 100%, since each little boy's future sexuality is compromised as a consequence. This entire topic is discussed more thoroughly in Chapter 17.
30. Many insurance companies will no longer pay for circumcision. Why put out the extra money when circumcision is not medically necessary?
31. The foreskin protects the glans from abrasive clothing.
32. The foreskin provides for a nice little jacket during cold weather. Having a foreskin over the penis head is like having fur-lined gloves for your hands.
33. The foreskin will not restrict the penis from growing to its normal length, as some people believe. Keeping him natural insures a fuller look.

34. If you have your son circumcised and public opinion swings in the anti-circumcision direction, he will undoubtedly want to become surgically or non-surgically restored when he matures because of the popularly proclaimed advantages of the foreskin. Why not let him keep all the equipment nature gave him so he will not have to go through the hassle and expense of restoring? (Besides, even though he can restore, restoration does not restore the penis to its true, original condition.)
35. According to my husband, who is restored, and according to Bud Berkeley, an intact man and founder of the Uncut Society of America, the sensation of an erecting penis expanding inside its foreskin and then bursting forth and having the foreskin slide down the shaft is so incredibly great, no man should miss out on it. Berkeley describes it this way in his book, *Foreskin: A Closer Look*:

During erection...the uncut man receives his most exquisite experience as the skin stretches out its nerves to accommodate the engorged penis. The best sensation comes as the skin slides down over the shaft (8)... [H]ow could anyone deprive a man of such an experience? All the medical, religious, and fashion excuses for circumcision suddenly become insignificant upon discovering the ultimate male experience of s-t-r-e-t-c-h (9).