



circumcision

a lifetime of medical benefits



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PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC STATEMENTS:

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The AAP issued statements on circumcision in 1971, 1975, 1989, and 1999. The statements have been confusing, contradictory, and often biased and not supported by medical evidence.

COMMITTEE ON FETUS AND NEWBORN AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

1971 - There are no valid medical indications for routine circumcision

1975 - There is no absolute medical indication for routine circumcision of newborn

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1975 AAP Task Force on Circumcision

"There is evidence that carcinoma of the penis can be prevented by neonatal circumcision. There is also evidence that optimal hygiene confers as much or almost as much protection."

Committee on Fetus and Newborn. Report of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Circumcision. 1975

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1975 AAP Task Force on Circumcision

"The Ad Hoc committee was sharply divided in its opinions and the resulting statement was compromise that stated that there was " no absolute medical indication for routine circumcision of the newborn." The words absolute and routine were meant to convey a different impression from the conclusion of the APP committee on the fetus and newborn, but this has not always been the interpretation of readers."

Thompson, HC: The value of neonatal circumcision. An unanswered and perhaps unanswerable question. Am J Dis Child 137:939, 1983.

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1989 AAP Task Force on Circumcision (Pediatrics 1989, 84:388)

- **Conclusive Advantages**
 - Prevention of penile cancer.
 - Prevention of phimosis and balanoposthitis.
- **Probable Advantages**
 - Prevention of UTI in infancy.
- **Possible Advantages**
 - Prevention of certain STD-genital ulcers (syphilis, chancroid)
 - Prevention of cervical cancer.

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1989 AAP Task Force on Circumcision

(Pediatrics 1989, 84:388)

Complications of Circumcision:

- Pain -- possible use of DPNB.
 - Bleeding
 - Infection
- 0.2-0.6%

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AAP TASK FORCE ON CIRCUMCISION 1988-1989

DISADVANTAGES OF NEWBORN CIRCUMCISION

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Infection
- Serious consequences - rare
- 2 deaths in 25 yrs (Kochen)
- 0 deaths in 500,000 N.Y. cases (King)
- 0 deaths 0 amputations in 175,000 US Army cases (Wisell)

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1999 AAP Task Force on Circumcision

(Pediatrics 1999, 103:686)

Conclusions:

- "Potential medical benefits" of newborn circumcision.
- Data are "not sufficient" to recommend routine neonatal circumcision.
- Procedure "not essential to child's current well-being."

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1999 AAP Task Force on Circumcision

(Pediatrics 1999, 103:686)

Media Response:

- "Circumcision Loses a Key Endorsement" (Washington Post).
- "Circumcision Benefits Disputed" (Chicago Sun Times).
- "Pediatricians Turn Away from Circumcision" (CNN).
- "Circumcision Opponents Energized by About Face of Academy of Pediatrics" (Forward).

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1999 AAP Circumcision: Information for Parents

Reasons to Choose

- Slightly lower UTI risk
- Lower penile CA risk
- Slightly lower HIV risk
- Prevents foreskin infection
- Prevents phimosis
- Easier genital hygiene

Reasons not to Choose

- Surgery risks. Complications rare and usually minor
- "Belief" that foreskin protects tip of penis
- "Belief" that circumcision decreases sexual pleasure
- Can teach people proper hygiene

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1999 AAP Task Force on Circumcision

(Pediatrics 1999, 103:686)

- "Penile problems may develop in both circumcised and uncircumcised boys."
- "There is little evidence to affirm the association between circumcision status and optimal genital hygiene."
- Method: "amputation of the foreskin."

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1999 AAP Task Force on Circumcision (Pediatrics 1999, 103:686)

- UTI: "The absolute risk of developing UTI in an uncircumcised male infant is low (at most ~ 1%)."
- Penile Cancer: "The risk of penile cancer developing in an uncircumcised man, although increased compared to a circumcised man, is low."
- HIV: "There is a substantial body of evidence that links noncircumcision in men with risks of HIV infection. However, behavioral factors appear to be far more important risk factors in the acquisition of HIV infection than circumcision status." 100

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Concern About 1999 AAP Task Force Report

(Schoen et al. Pediatrics 2000:620-3)

- Anti-circumcision jargon- "amputation of the foreskin"
- Six documented evidence-based benefits referred to as "potential benefits"
- Six benefits vs 1 risk (complications- "rare and usually minor") "not sufficient to recommend newborn circumcision". What would be sufficient?

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