



# circumcision

a lifetime of medical benefits



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**PRESENTATION OF HISTORY, RELIGION, CULTURE OF CIRCUMCISION:** **NEW**

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Circumcision has been performed for thousands of years and is part of a number of religious and cultural traditions. From the religious standpoint, it is part of the Judeo-Christian belief. Circumcision was a covenant between Abraham and God in the Old Testament, and the New Testament tells us that Jesus was circumcised in the accepted Jewish fashion at age 8 days. Moslems also perform circumcision, but it is done at various ages in childhood. From the secular standpoint it has been theorized that desert-dwelling people in tropical lands began to be circumcised for reasons of cleanliness ("circumcision and sand") and to avoid severe foreskin infections. During World War II, poor hygienic conditions during the African invasion in the desert areas resulted in foreskin infections in over 100,000 U.S. soldiers, and lead the Armed forces to perform adult circumcision among many recruits. This WW II experience is the likely explanation for the fact that following the war in the 1950s and 1960s almost 90% of U.S. newborns were circumcised.

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**Old Testament**  
**Genesis, Chapt 17**

"God said to Abraham, the covenant between me and you and your offspring to follow which you shall keep: through out the generations every male among you shall be circumcised at the age of eight days."

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**New Testament**  
**Luke, Chapt 2, Verse 21**  
**Circumcision of Jesus**

"And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the child, his name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."

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**Remondino (1891), p. 228**

Repeat attacks of herpes preputialis and some consequent point of induration are looked upon as starting points for the cancerous affection of the prepuce.

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**Remondino (1891), p. 192 re Syphilis**

The retention of the virus (syphilis) is seemingly assisted by the topographical condition of the prepuce and its absorption is facilitated by the thinness of the mucous membrane.

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**Remondino (1891), p. 192 re Syphilis**

The absence of the prepuce and the non-absorbing character of the skin of the glans causes less tendency to favor syphilitic inoculation.

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**Infant Circumcision in U.S. Hospitals, 1991 and 1996**  
(National Center for Health Statistics - Percent of Male Newborns)

Region	1991	1996
Northeast	62.3%	66.7%
Midwest	78.1%	81.0%
South	63.6%	63.6%
West	40.5%	36.2%
All Regions	61.6%	60.2%

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**Circumcision Decision - Mothers SF General/UCSF**  
(Cielieski-Carlucci. Cambr. Quart Health Ethics 1996; 5:228)

- 61% Circumcised - Overall
- 76% Whites
- 66% Asians
- 91% African-Americans
- 23% Hispanics

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**Circumcision Decision - Providers SF General/UCSF**  
(Cielieski-Carlucci. Cambr. Quart Health Ethics 1996; 5:228)

- 76% of nurses inform - no absolute medical indications.
- 14% of nurses (labor, delivery, postpartum) and 67% of MDs inform - may be possible benefits.

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### GEORELIGIOUS BASIS FOR CIRCUMCISION: CIRCUMCISION AND SAND

1. WWII. North African campaign - high incidence of balanitis requiring urgent circumcision. Similar in Afrika Crops.
2. Gulf War. Increase in balanitis in uncircumcised (Wiswell).
3. Ancient basis. Ritual circumcision - Jews, Arabs, Sahara Tribes, Kaluhari Bushmen.

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ROTH, Phillip - The Counter - Select Penguin 1988

"Quite convincingly, circumcision gives the lie to the womb-dream of life in the beautiful state of innocent prehistory, the appealing idyll of being "naturally" unencumbered by man-made ritual. To be born is to lose all that."

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ROTH, Phillip - The Counter - Select Penguin 1988

"I know that touting circumcision is entirely anti-Lamaze and the thinking these days is to debrutalize birth and culminates in delivering the child in water in order not to even startle him."

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Dr. Jacob Snowman (1871 - 1959) - Obituary-  
London Times Feb '59

London physician and surgeon-mohel

Dr. Snowman "was called upon for the circumcision of the babies of the Royal Family"

"Prince Charles underwent the operation in 1948, when Dr. Snowman's visit to Buckingham Palace attracted some publicity in the daily press."

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### Remondino. (1891), p. 186

Circumcision is like a substantial and well-secured life-annuity; every year of life you can draw the benefit.

Parents cannot make a better paying investment for their little boys.

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### Remondino. (1891), p. 161

Neither are physicians all of one accord as to whether circumcision is a benefit, or being useless, a dangerous and unnecessary operation. This writer is emphatically in favor of circumcision and has the fullest faith in the positive moral & physical benefits that mankind gains from this operation.

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### Remondino. (1891), p. 206

When man was living in the wild state, but for the double fold of the prepuce protecting it from thorns & cutting grasses, the coarse bark of trees, or the stings & bites of insects, the glans penis of primitive man would have looked like the head of the proverbially duel-disfigured German University student.

02

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### Remondino. (1891), p. 195 Statistics from Prussia

Jewish women are three times as chaste as the Catholics and four times as chaste as the Evangelists. The Jew has, therefore, two avenues of infection from syphilis cut off - the lesser liability due to his circumcision and the chastity of the women.

03

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### Remondino. (1891), p. 224

M. Roux, Surgeon to the Charite, first called attention of the French profession to the intimate relation or dependence that cancer of the penis bears to phimosis.

04

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### Foreskin Acts as an AIDS Magnet (Soilleux, J. Clin.Pathol, Jan 2004)

- HIV binds to cells in the foreskin having special molecules called CD4 and CCR5.
- Another molecule, DC-sign, act as a "chemical chaperone" by picking up HIV and carrying it inside cells.

[click on slide to enlarge](#)

### Famous Folks and Foreskins

- King Louis XVI/Marie Antoinette - phimosis
- Diego Rivera - penile cancer
- Eva Peron - cervical cancer
- Prince Charles (circumcised) and the 2 young Princes (uncircumcised)- break with tradition

### Posted on the Internet in 1999 by "Denny"

- "I think it is wrong for parents to purposely make their sons unusual (in this country --USA) by leaving a foreskin on their sons' penises. They might as well tattoo the worked "Odd" on their foreheads."

### Circumcision - History and Religion

1. Ancient Egyptians
2. Jews, Abraham (Genesis, Ch.17)
3. Christians - Jesus and Apostles and all early Christians circumcised, Paul's influence(Luke, Chapter 2, verse 21).
4. Muslims - Mohammed circumcised. Age variable. Abraham recognized as prophet
5. Americans - 1850 ---->Present

### Origins of American Circumcision (1850-1915)

1. Recommendation of leading physicians  
Clinical observations- penile cancer, cervical cancer, syphilis, local infections
2. Open minded Americans/Immigrants  
Freed from rigid old world social/class order. New life, new ways
3. Emphasis on cleanliness
4. Acceptance by middle/upper classes

### Why Americans (10-15%) Chose Circumcision in 1904

- Cleanliness
- Health - helps avoid cancer of the penis, cancer of the cervix, syphilis, and local penile problems
- Recommended by leading physicians (Sayre, Remondino, etc)

### Why Americans (75-80%) Chose Circumcision in 2004

- Cleanliness
- Health - helps avoid cancer of the penis, cancer of the cervix, syphilis, and local penile problems, cervix, UTI's, and HIV
- It's the American way - father, son, contemporaries and the "locker room syndrome."

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