



# circumcision

a lifetime of medical benefits



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## PRESENTATION OF LOCAL PROBLEMS - PHIMOSIS, BALANOPOSTHITIS, AND GENITAL HYGIENE:

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Local foreskin infections (balanoposthitis) can occur at any age in uncircumcised males, but is most common at age 2-5 years, an age when the foreskin has often not yet completely separated, and cannot be fully retracted, and genital cleanliness is more difficult to accomplish. In addition between 0.5% and 1% of boys will never be able to retract their foreskin due to a pinpoint opening at the end (phimosis) and will have to be circumcised at a later date when the procedure is more complex and difficult, and about 10 times more expensive. Newborn circumcision leads to improved genital hygiene throughout life, but most importantly in infancy, early childhood and old age when personal hygiene may be inadequate. Uncircumcised males are more likely to develop a wide variety of skin disorders including psoriasis, lichen planus, and seborrhei eczema.

### Bacteria and the Foreskin

- ↑ Bacterial colonization in uncircumcised infants (Wiswell J Peds 1988, Glennon Arch Dis Child 1988 Bullgren Acta Ped Scand 1976).
- ↑ Uropathic bacterial adherence to foreskin mucosa (Fussell J Urol 1988, Roberts J Urol 1984).
- ↑ Bacteriuria in uncircumcised boys (Amir AJDC 1993, Schlager Arch Pediatr 1995).

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### Wilson, RA Can MAJ 1947;56:54

Circumcision renders the delicate coronal membrane much more resistant to injury and infection.

The dangers of balanitis, painful erection and coitus and paraphimosis can be removed by this simple prophylactic operation.

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### BALANOPOSTHITIS

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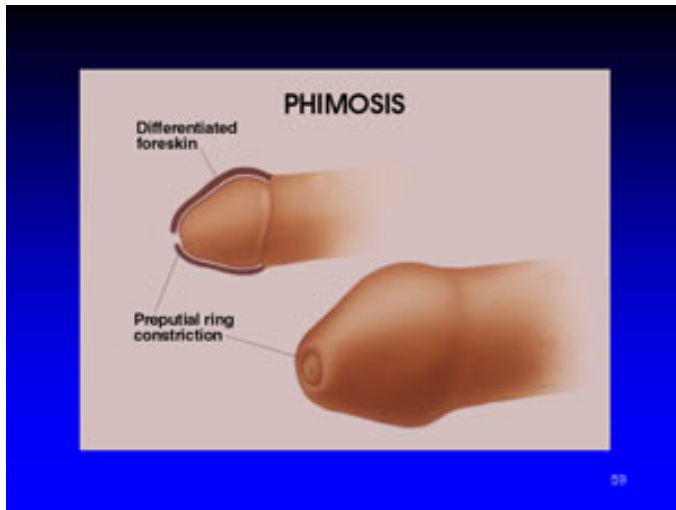
### BALANITIS - 100 CASES IN 3 1/2 YEARS

Ref: Escala & Rickwood. Brit J Urol 1989;63:196  
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital

INCIDENCE 4%  
Ages 2 - 9 years (most 2-5 yrs)  
FORESKIN NOT FULLY RETRACTIBLE - 87%

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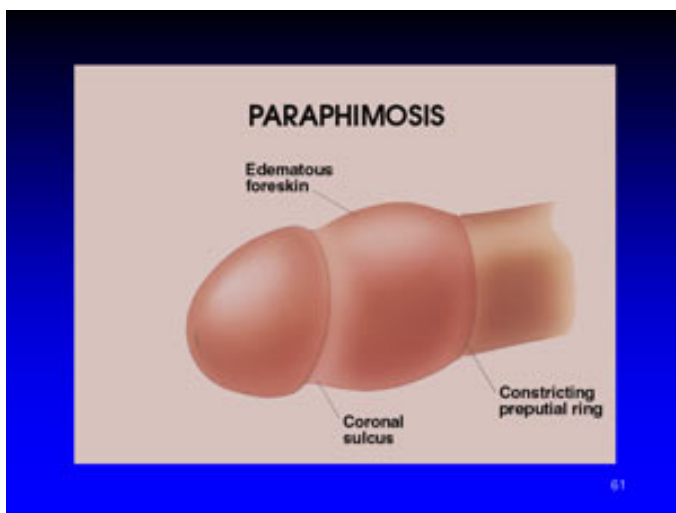
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**PHIMOSIS - SCARRING OF THE TIP OF THE PREPUCE**  
 Richmond, AM et al. Brit J Urol 1980;52:147  
 Children's Hospital, Sheffield

**23 cases in 9 months**  
**Ages 4 - 11 years**  
**Pathology - balanitis xerotica obliterans**

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**INCIDENCE OF PHIMOSIS, PREPUTIAL ADHESIONS, SMEGMA**  
 Ref: Oster J. Arch Dis Child 1988;42:280

**9,545 Danish boys, age 6-17 years**

**PHIMOSIS 4% (8% 6 yrs → 1% 17 yrs)**  
**PREPUTIAL ADHESIONS 33% (63% 6 yrs → 3% 17 yrs)**  
**SMEGMA 5% (maximum > 12 yrs)**

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**Circumcision and Genital Dermatoses**  
 Mallon et al, Arch Derm 2000;136:350-354

- British study - Derm Clinic
  - 350 males with genital skin disease
  - 305 male controls (48% circumcised)

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**Circumcision and Genital Dermatoses**  
 Mallon et al, Arch Derm 2000;136:350-354

Disorder	% Uncircumcised
Psoriasis	72%
Lichen planus	69%
Seborrheic eczema	72%
Penile infections	84%

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## Circumcision and Genital Dermatoses

Mallon et al, Arch Derm 2000;136:350-354

### Conclusions:

1. Odds ratio of uncircumcised: circumcised for all penile skin diseases - 3.2
2. Circumcision prevents or protects against common inflammatory penile dermatoses

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## KALCEV, B: MED OFF 1964;112:171

316 uncircumcised British schoolboys (private school)

Age 5-6 yrs -- 194: 79% "not practicing personal hygiene."

60% "foreskin not fully retractible"

Age 14-15 yrs -- 122: 82% "not practicing personal hygiene."

28% "foreskin not fully retractible."

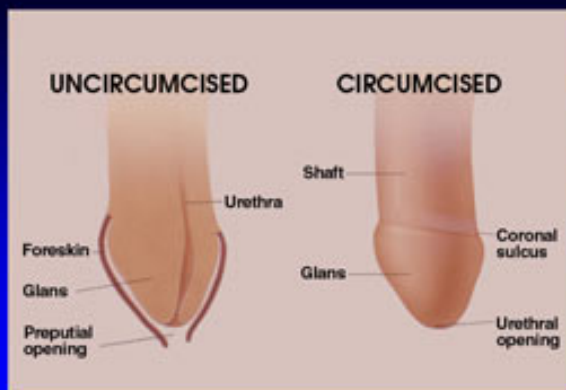
50 others had been circumcised

9.3% of 5-6 year old

18.4% of 14-15 yrs olds

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## Medical Department, U.S. Army, Surgery in WW II [Patton, JF - Urology (1987), p 183]

"Very little progress in the management of venereal warts was made during the war except that the need for circumcision in a soldier was made very clear. Because keeping the foreskin clean was very difficult in the field, many soldiers with only a minimal tendency toward phimosis were likely to develop balanoposthitis."

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## Medical Department, U.S. Army, Surgery in WW II

[Patton, JF - Urology (1987) p 145]

"Hospital admissions for paraphimosis, phimosis, balanitis, and condyloma acuminata during 1942-1945 totaled 146,793. Had these patients been circumcised before induction, this total would probably have been close to zero."

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## Medical Department, U.S. Army, Surgery in WW II [Patton, JF - Urology (1987) p 102]

"When the enormous man - hour loss from disease peculiar to the uncircumcised man is appraised, routine prophylactic circumcision should require no greater argument to justify it."

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