



circumcision

a lifetime of medical benefits



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PRESENTATION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD):

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As with HIV, mini-abrasions of the foreskin during intercourse is the explanation for the fact that uncircumcised men are more likely to acquire certain (though not all) STDs. The STDs for which uncircumcised men are at greater risk include syphilis, chancroid and genital herpes, all of which involve ulceration of the penile surface through which the infection enters.

Wilson, RA - Circumcision & VD, Can MAJ 45:54, 1947

Gonorrhea - the foreskin after coitus retains infectious mucus - ideal environment of moisture and warmth - organisms multiply and contaminate urethral mucosa.

Syphilis - tears and abrasions of the foreskin are commonly seen on sick parade. Small abrasions of the delicate coronal membrane occur during brothel intercourse. Both provide a portal of entry for the spirochete.

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Baltimore STD Clinics 4028 Men & Women (5.2% HIV Positive)

Quinn, TC et al: N Engl J Med 1988;318:197-203

"In men, HIV seropositivity was associated with a history of syphilis or a reactive serologic test for syphilis, and in women, with a history of genital warts".

"This raises the possibility that STDs that disrupt epithelial surfaces may be important in the transmission of HIV".

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Circumcision, Chancroid & AIDS

(Caldwell & Caldwell - Scientif Amer Mar 1996, p. 62)

1. Chancroid mostly in uncircumcised

- U.S. soldiers in Korea - 33% uncircumcised, 90% of cases

2. Kenya studies - uncircumcised men with chancroid at greatest risk for HIV infection

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TAYLOR & ROBIN - BRIT. J. VENER. DIS., 1975;51:274

WHITE CHAPEL CLINIC, LONDON HOSPITAL

214 men with genital herpes 12.5% circumcised
410 controls from same clinic 25.4% circumcised
p less than 0.01

There is a positive relationship between absence of circumcision and genital HSV infection

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HIV in Long Distance Truck Driver - E. Africa

(Bwayo, et al., Arch. Int. Med., 1994;154:1391)

970 truck drivers

"The strongest correlates of HIV seropositivity were uncircumcised status and history of both ulcerative and nonulcerative STDs".

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Circumcision : HIV and Other STDs in Kenya Truckers

(Lavreys et al, J Inf Dis 1999; 180:330)

- Uncircumcised status associated with increased risk of acquiring HIV (4x) and genital ulcer disease (2.5x), after controlling for confounders.

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Studies Relating Circumcision Status to "Conventional" STDs

(Moses, S. et al, Sex Transm. Inf. 1998;74:368)

STD	# Studies Circ Protective	# Studies No Effect	# Studies Circ High Risk
Chancroid/Syphilis	11	0	0
Gonorrhea	5	2	0
Genital Herpes	2	4	0
Other Urethritis	2	3	3
Genital Warts	1	1	1

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