

10 Reasons

Why YOU Should **STOP CIRCUMCISING** **BABY BOYS**

1. Because the foreskin is a normal, functional body part, and does not need to be removed. There is no medical reason for you to perform “routine” infant circumcision. No professional medical association in the world recommends it.

2. Because circumcising a baby boy violates the bioethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice. As a licensed physician, you are bound by law, by standards of care, and by a code of professional ethics to uphold these well-established principles.

3. Because your patient is the baby, not the parent, and your patient has not consented. Circumcision painfully and permanently alters a baby boy's genitals, removing healthy, protective, functional penile tissue and exposing him to unnecessary pain and risk. No baby can consent to take on these risks, and proxy (parental) consent is not valid.

4. Because you took an oath to heal the sick and do no harm. The foreskin is a normal, sensitive, and useful body part. In infant boys, it serves a protective function, and throughout a man's life, it keeps the glans moist, shields it from injury, and enhances sexual pleasure. By crushing and severing the foreskin, you damage the healthy penis, cause unnecessary pain and bleeding, create a risk of infection and complications, and permanently remove viable erogenous tissue.

5. Because boys deserve the same protection from unwanted genital surgery as girls. Girls are protected by Federal law from cosmetic genital surgery, whether practiced in medical or non-medical settings, and regardless of the religion or cultural preferences of their parents. Every child has a right to bodily self-determination. There is no ethical basis to discriminate against boys in this regard.

6. Because doctors in other medically advanced countries don't circumcise baby boys. Approximately 75% of the men in the world are intact, with no adverse health consequences. Physicians in modern countries with excellent public health indicators are often appalled to hear that American doctors and hospitals routinely remove part of a boy's penis shortly after birth.

7. Because circumcision is risky for the baby. Complications from circumcision include infection, abnormal bleeding, removal of too much skin, removal of all or part of the glans or penile shaft, serious infections, urinary problems, and even death. All circumcisions, even the “uncomplicated” ones, result in the permanent loss of the foreskin and its important functions, and leave a scar.

8. Because circumcising babies is risky for doctors. An estimated 117 babies die each year from “routine” circumcisions carried out by doctors just like you. Many more suffer complications – some of which are not revealed until the victim is sexually mature. Lawsuits and recoveries for adverse consequences of circumcision are becoming more common. In most states, statutes of limitations reopen when boys reach 18, and growing numbers of young men are suing the doctors who circumcised them as babies.

9. Because circumcision doesn't prevent HIV or other diseases. Over time, claims that circumcision prevents disease have repeatedly proven to be false. Most men in the United States are circumcised; yet, the United States has higher rates of HIV/AIDS and other STDs than countries where circumcision is rare.

10. Because times and attitudes have changed. Circumcision rates vary across the country, but today more than half of all baby boys leave the hospital intact. Your colleagues are learning about the value of the foreskin, and are telling parents that circumcision is risky and medically unnecessary. Infant circumcision is a primitive tradition that should be abandoned. America should join the rest of the modern world in respectfully leaving our boys intact.