



## PURPOSE OF THE FORESKIN

### A biology lesson!

Far from just "extra skin," the foreskin has many sexual, protective, and reproductive functions.

It's the same type of skin as the clitoral hood, the bit of skin that protects the clitoris.



#### PROTECTS THE GLANS

Keeps head of the penis pink, soft, and lubricated.

The glans is meant to be a soft, pliable mucus membrane.



#### FUSED TO GLANS

When baby is young, the foreskin is fused to the glans.

It prevents bacteria, poop, and pee from irritating the penis when sitting in a dirty diaper.



#### NERVE ENDINGS

Did you know there are more nerve endings in the foreskin than in the whole penis?

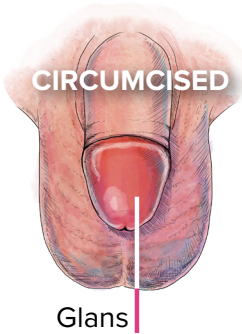
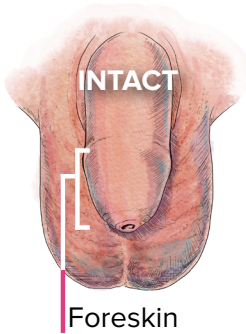
It's an important factor of sexual pleasure.



#### LESS FRICTION

The foreskin creates a "gliding action" during intercourse that reduces friction and pain.

Also allows for penis to extend to its full length.



### American Academy of Pediatrics

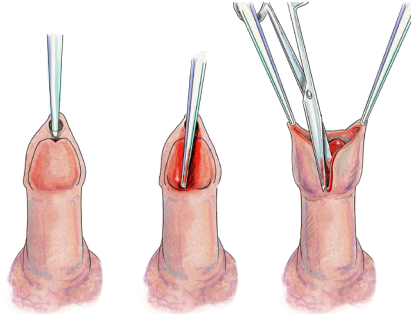
*"Health benefits are not great enough to recommend routine circumcision for all male newborns"*

### Body Autonomy, Human Rights, and Ethics

*Circumcision is a non-urgent, cosmetic surgery. A newborn is unable to consent. Who should ethically be making this decision? Can you wait for baby to decide for themselves?*



## CIRCUMCISION PROCEDURE



1. Baby is strapped to circumcision board.
2. Insist on pain relief being used.
3. Hemostat is inserted and sweeps around glans, separating it from foreskin.
4. A slit is made.
5. Either a Plastibell or Gomco device is inserted over glans.
6. Foreskin is trimmed around device.

- B** Benefits?
- R** Risks?
- A** Alternatives?
- I** Intuition?
- N** What if we do nothing?

## CIRC. BENEFITS

- Some studies show small decreases of already rare health conditions (penile cancer, urinary tract infections, phimosis).
- Some studies show decreases in HIV and HPV transmission *Circumcision does not prevent transmission. Circumcised people can and do still contract HIV and HPV. Safe sex practices are most effective.*

## CIRC. RISKS

- Infection
- Bleeding
- Pain
- Negative impact on feeding
- Decreased sensation
- Painful erections
- Inflammation of urethra
- Injury/amputation
- Skin bridges
- Death