













video of a male baby being circumcised December, 2006 – January, 2007

[NOTE: I began this forum thread before writing my essay on “34 reasons to circumcise your baby.”]

Author	Message
<p>Daniel Mackler Site Admin</p> <p>Joined: 03 Aug 2006 Posts: 523 Location: New York City</p>	<p>Posted: Sat Dec 30, 2006 12:02 pm Post subject:  quote  edit  IP video of a male baby being circumcised</p> <hr/> <p>Hi all,</p> <p>I was told about this “routine” circumcision video on the internet and I watched it – to my complete horror.</p> <p>THE LINK TO THE VIDEO</p> <p>I truly have seen little in my adult life that disturbed me as much as this. What shocks me is that this happens to little boys all over the United States still, and even in my very neighborhood – and yet no one bats an eye.</p> <p>Although the video is graphic, I chose to put it up here anywhere. Who sides with this little screaming boy?</p> <p>Certainly not the cool, calm, seemingly gentle doctor with his good bedside manner and rational attitude – as he genitally mutilates the boy.</p> <p>Certainly not the boy’s father, who stands to the side and watches the mutilation without lifting a finger, and just defers to the insane authority of the doctor.</p> <p>This little boy is strapped down and tortured. This is legal? This video made me shudder and cry.</p> <hr/> <p>Daniel Mackler</p> <p>http://iraresoul.com</p>
<p>Dennis</p> <p>Joined: 20 Oct 2006 Posts: 140 Location: Sweden</p>	<p>Posted: Sat Dec 30, 2006 4:32 pm Post subject:  quote  edit  IP</p> <hr/> <p>I’ve to admit that I couldn’t continue watching this video. Too disturbing to see a baby being butchered without anesthesia and without any medical reason. Is this where men learn to hate their penis? I say this because I’ve always wondered why so many men are so careless or indifferent when it comes to hygiene and their penis. How many men wipe their penis clean after taken a piss? You can always tell by the way the toilet paper hangs at a toilet. And I’ve never seen a public urinal with toilet paper. Or to go a step further back in time, how many mothers (and fathers) wash the penis of their baby boy properly. I know of cases where mothers didn’t even want to touch that part (and where it got infected - contributing to the popularity of the circumcision). Or how many mothers freak out when their baby suddenly urinates while being washed? Just the expression of the mother’s face contributes to the</p>

	<p>baby's wellbeing. Is she tense and disgusted or is she relaxed?</p> <p>Is circumcision in the US still as high as 90 percent?</p> <p>Dennis</p> <p>Yes, there's another forum dealing with Alice Miller's findings... www.wallsofsilence.com</p>
<p>Daniel Mackler Site Admin</p> <p>Joined: 03 Aug 2006 Posts: 523 Location: New York City</p>	<p>Posted: Sat Dec 30, 2006 4:43 pm Post subject:  quote  edit  IP</p> <p>Thanks for the reply, Dennis. You bring up many good questions, and I don't know how to answer most of them.</p> <p>I'm not sure how high is the percentage of circumcised children in the United States, but I just read that something like a MILLION baby boys a year get circumcised here. It's so sickening. I very much respect your inability to watch the whole of the video. It's so disturbing. I was crying and shaking while watching it. And it messed up my night of sleep last night.</p> <p>And to think that circumcision is normal – THE NORM – in my culture. It is one of the most vile things I can imagine.</p> <p>I felt traumatized just watching that video, but I forced myself to watch it through and through.</p> <p>Dennis wrote:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Is this where men learn to hate their penis?</p> </div> <p>I think the hate is secondary to the powerlessness, the trauma, and the unresolved grief. What I find interesting is that "penis" is a word that everyone in the culture (at least in the United States) can talk about openly, but few, even women, can comfortably use the word "vagina." Is it the same in Sweden and Holland – and in Swedish and Dutch?</p> <p>I wonder if it's because so many boys at such an early age were taught, through circumcision, that their penises were public properties – to be butchered by random maniac doctors and with the full consent of their parents.</p> <p>But more so, I just think circumcision sends little boys a horrible welcome message on their first day out of the womb. Truly awful. That little boy squeaking and crying as they butchered him – AWFUL.</p> <p>Daniel Mackler</p> <p>http://iraresoul.com</p>
<p>Dennis</p> <p>Joined: 20 Oct 2006 Posts: 140 Location: Sweden</p>	<p>Posted: Wed Jan 03, 2007 3:15 pm Post subject:  quote  edit  IP</p> <p>When such a cruel act becomes the norm in society, then there's something fundamentally wrong. Circumcision is not illegal in Sweden but many doctors refuse to do it. Some people (from Iraq/Iran for example) go abroad to have it done, so there are doctors that still do it because they know abroad it will be done even more barbaric.</p>

How men treat their penis is still a huge taboo. I've never read in a book or heard it on TV how men do not clean their penis after taking a piss. I guess because they can't give it a genetic cause or can administer an appropriate pill against it.

True, there's a lot of insults in the language containing the word penis (also in Dutch and Swedish). Much less than with vagina. There's a funny episode of Larry David's 'Curb Your Enthusiasm' where he deals with this problem. He calls a man during a poker game, a cunt (instead of a pussy) and everyone is silent a shocked and insulted. He also had an episode where he talks about his wife having a numb vagina as 'small talk'.

What's also interesting is that a lot of people connect the word vagina or penis (or whatever word is used for it) to something negative. What's negative about it? Is it still considered a sin in our culture? Is it judged as something dirty? In Europe we don't understand why, for example, the word nipple is bleeped on national TV in the US. Why is this presented as something bad, something dirty, something you don't want to think about? After all, every human has nipples. On the other hand, it's perfectly accepted to mention: murder, kill, or torture.




Besides circumcision, a lot of the shaming takes place during toilet training.

Dennis

Yes, there's another forum dealing with Alice Miller's findings...
www.wallofsilence.com

Daniel Mackler
Site Admin

Joined: 03 Aug 2006
Posts: 523
Location: New York City

Posted: Thu Jan 04, 2007 5:10 pm Post subject:  [quote](#)  [edit](#)  [IP](#)

Dennis wrote:

When such a cruel act becomes the norm in society, then there's something fundamentally wrong.

Right on!

Dennis wrote:

Circumcision is not illegal in Sweden but many doctors refuse to do it.

Their ethics are based in deep emotional connections – great!

Dennis wrote:

How men treat their penis is still a huge taboo.

Interestingly, I just did a web search for photographs of male circumcision and female genital mutilation, and there are TONS of pictures of male circumcisions (before, during, and after) but I couldn't find any on female genital mutilation. Again, this is an example of western cultures being open to viewing the degradation of the male genitalia, but not to the female genitalia.

Of course female genital mutilation is often worse than male circumcision, but still, it's interesting that there's not one photo of it

anywhere – but lots of writing – whereas photos of the male genital mutilation (and its results) are the norm.

Dennis wrote:

True, there's a lot of insults in the language containing the word penis (also in Dutch and Swedish). Much less than with vagina.

Interesting.

Dennis wrote:

What's also interesting is that a lot of people connect the word vagina or penis (or whatever word is used for it) to something negative. What's negative about it?

So true – and yet people are obsessed with human genitalia – so drawn to them!

Dennis wrote:

Why is this presented as something bad, something dirty, something you don't want to think about? After all, every human has nipples. On the other hand, it's perfectly accepted to mention: murder, kill, or torture.

Yes, it's definitely crazy. Nipples are criminalized and ultra-violence is welcomed. Scary.

Dennis wrote:

Besides circumcision, a lot of the shaming takes place during toilet training.

True. Tough to be a kid in our modern world – and also throughout history.

I'm working on a new essay on circumcision. I'm also discussing it on a listserve with mental health professionals, and that's giving me a lot of new ideas...

Thanks for your comments and insights, Dennis.

Daniel Mackler

<http://iraresoul.com>

Last edited by Daniel Mackler on Sat Jan 06, 2007 10:50 am; edited 1 time in total

kaleo

Posted: Fri Jan 05, 2007 11:48 pm Post subject: Not going to watch this



Joined: 06 Oct 2006
Posts: 209

Nope, can't look at this. We didn't have our son circumcised - just the thought of it made me sick.

That said, have you read the recent article about studies claiming circumcision reduces AIDS transmission?

Kaleo

Dennis

Joined: 20 Oct 2006
Posts: 140
Location: Sweden

Posted: Sat Jan 06, 2007 6:38 am Post subject:

 quote  edit  IP

Kaleo wrote:

have you read the recent article about studies claiming circumcision reduces AIDS transmission?

No I haven't, but I bet *castration* also reduces AIDS transmission. I know there are several so-called positive outcomes of circumcision being expressed, but none justify it. Kaleo, are you talking about female circumcision in Africa? Some African countries have as much as 75 percent of the girls circumcised. Can you mention a link to this study, Kaleo?

Daniel, I also noticed that photos of female circumcision are rare on the net. Maybe partly because it's mostly an African ritual, where access to a camera is much less common. But, as you said, a penis is more publicly accepted than a vagina, so that probably plays a role as well. There's no statue of a peeing girl in Brussels, for example.

Female circumcision is forbidden by law in Sweden and Holland and occasionally there's a riot when someone goes abroad to have it done at their child, which is also forbidden.

Dennis

Yes, there's another forum dealing with Alice Miller's findings...
www.wallsofsilence.com

Daniel Mackler
Site Admin

Joined: 03 Aug 2006
Posts: 523
Location: New York City

Posted: Sat Jan 06, 2007 10:56 am Post subject: Re: Not going to watch this

 quote  edit  IP

kaleo wrote:

Nope, can't look at this.

It is awful, and I respect your right not to watch it, for sure. I myself chose to watch it because it's SO common in our society, a major pink elephant in the living room. Watching it was part of my education. It's like watching a video of what really happens behind the scenes at a mass chicken farm...disturbing but true, the underbelly of our society.

kaleo wrote:

We didn't have our son circumcised - just the thought of it made me sick.

Good for you - and for your son!!!!

kaleo wrote:

That said, have you read the recent article about studies claiming circumcision reduces AIDS transmission?

Yes, I've read a couple of them. I think the flaw with them, from what I remember - and with a lot of articles that claim that circumcision prevents all sorts of diseases - is that if you just engage in some proper hygiene of the foreskin it will prevent many of the same problems.

I suppose it's like saying that people who get all their teeth removed by a dentist in childhood or early adulthood will never, EVER have to go to a dentist again except for rare visits to get new dentures made - and therefore we should all get our all teeth extracted as soon as possible! Imagine the money and time and toothbrushes and toothpaste we could save! (Oddly enough I read a book about a whole group of Amish in Pennsylvania - the book was called "Plain and Simple" - who do just this, for this exact reason!!!)

Nice to have you back, Kaleo!

Happy New Year.

Daniel Mackler

<http://iraresoul.com>

Daniel Mackler
Site Admin

Joined: 03 Aug 2006
Posts: 523
Location: New York City

Posted: Sun Jan 07, 2007 3:32 pm Post subject:

 quote  edit  IP

I just finished my essay on circumcision. I wrote it in a vein of dark humor: www.iraresoul.com/circumcision.html

Daniel Mackler

<http://iraresoul.com>

kaleo

Joined: 06 Oct 2006
Posts: 209

Posted: Mon Jan 08, 2007 8:09 am Post subject:

 quote  edit  IP

Dennis -

Here is one link:

[link removed - didn't fit on page]

I'm not talking about female circumcision, nor saying I believe this study is right. But it was worth mentioning, don't you think? It has been quite well publicized. In India, the government used to give out TV sets to men who got a vasectomy voluntarily as a form of birth control.

Please understand, I think education is the best form of helping anyone and don't support either forced circumcision or bribed vasectomy, but given the various beliefs on sterilization posted on this forum, where's the difference in human rights between circumcision for health reasons (if it did indeed serve such a purpose) and sterilization for population control? Obviously, the major difference is that circumcision is imposed on a helpless child.

best,
Kaleo

manjushri

Joined: 08 Sep 2006
Posts: 146
Location: UK

Posted: Mon Jan 08, 2007 9:29 am Post subject:

 quote  edit  IP

HI Kaleo,
welcome back- hope you had a good break and happy new Year!

I wouldn't watch the video link either- I don't think its necessary for me to watch it to be honest- I cannot imagine how physically horrendously

painful it must be and watching a baby scream in agony won't change that.

I would never advocate the circumcision of babies and children- if adult men want to do that that's their right I guess- I can't see them flocking to clinics though! There are also studies which have linked circumcised men with a lower transmission of HPV, the virus which causes cervical cancer in women, (this came up on the forum before a few months ago) but as others have said if men cleaned themselves properly then maybe the harbouring of dangerous bacteria under the foreskin wouldn't be so much of a problem. Its interesting but as a woman I wouldn't have a clue how to clean baby boy's foreskin, I seem to remember midwives in the UK telling mothers to leave well alone (they are definitely advised that its unnecessary to clean baby girls genitalia) I might be out of date these days though.

Quote:

Kaleo wrote:
where's the difference in human rights between circumcision for health reasons (if it did indeed serve such a purpose) and sterilization for population control? Obviously, the major difference is that circumcision is imposed on a helpless child.

AS you say a tiny child being mutilated, at its parents' behest is a bit different from anything an adult might (even if they were manipulated) experience in terms of the long term psychological impact. Though its obviously completely unethical if a rural illiterate man is tricked into a vasectomy (Have you read 'A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry?') Any involuntary or bribed surgical procedures are obviously abusive of human rights whatever their ultimate purpose! Interestingly circumcision of men seems to have health benefits for their sexual partners- whereas FGM has no health benefits for anyone (quite the opposite) and is purely in order to support domination of women's sexuality in cultures where it is practised. I increasingly think the two are not comparable at all, for one thing FGM is not something I've heard of being practised on babies -it is done to slightly older girls usually between 4 & 12 whereas I suspect the vast majority of circumcisions are on boys under 1 year and certainly under 5.




I completely agree with both Dennis and Daniel that its a very strange world where chopping bits of genitalia off babies and children is regarded as healthy and good by anyone!

Best wishes,

Rebekah

'To be disillusioned is better than being under an illusion!'

Dennis

Posted: Tue Jan 09, 2007 7:17 am Post subject:  [quote](#)  [edit](#)  [IP](#)

Joined: 20 Oct 2006
Posts: 140
Location: Sweden

Daniel, impressive list you wrote with 34 reasons to circumcise your baby. Good that you put that video at the end as well.

Kaleo, thanks for the link. There's a lot written about it. Seems like the study was done on adult men being circumcised and were asked to abstain from sex for 30 days to let the wound heal, or use condoms. The

result wasn't that circumcision decreased the risk of HIV infection by 50 percent, but that those men had sex with fewer partners, which resulted in the decreased risk. But is that a good thing? If Russian Roulette was played with two bullets, would playing with one bullet be something to cheer about?

I can imagine that these circumcised men became more self-conscious about their penis, which could result in less sex, maybe even impotence or at least the fear for it. I have only glanced at the study, but these are my first thoughts. Also maybe some of the circumcised men overcame their fear of using condoms this way.

manjushri wrote:

There are also studies which have linked circumcised men with a lower transmission of HPV, the virus which causes cervical cancer in women, (this came up on the forum before a few months ago) but as others have said if men cleaned themselves properly then maybe the harbouring of dangerous bacteria under the foreskin wouldn't be so much of a problem. Its interesting but as a woman I wouldn't have a clue how to clean baby boy's foreskin, I seem to remember midwives in the UK telling mothers to leave well alone (they are definitely advised that its unnecessary to clean baby girls genitalia) I might be out of date these days though.

I'm sure now that the lack of cleaning the penis, cause infections one way or the other. Just when it's the same when you never or seldom clean your teeth. It's shocking to read that midwives in the UK advise mothers to not touch their baby's genitals. Washing a baby boy's penis is exactly the same like you wash any other part of his body: you use water and soap and a soft cloth/sponge (not a hard brush). Why would that be such a hard thing for midwives to tell the mothers?

Almost funny to think about parents telling their kid to brush their teeth every night, but never ask: have you washed your penis. And more important, have you wiped clean your penis after you've been to the toilet. Forget about washing your hands.

Coincidentally, there's a 30 minute [radio interview of Arthur and France Janov](#) from December 20, 2006, I listened to last night, and one topic was exactly circumcision. For those who are not familiar with Janov, this interview is a good introduction.

Dennis

Yes, there's another forum dealing with Alice Miller's findings...
www.wallsofsilence.com

Daniel Mackler
Site Admin

Joined: 03 Aug 2006
Posts: 523
Location: New York City

Posted: Tue Jan 09, 2007 4:16 pm Post subject:



kaleo wrote:

[link removed - too long] I'm not talking about female circumcision, nor saying I believe this study is right. But it was worth mentioning, don't you think? It has been quite well publicized.

Definitely worth mentioning – interesting stuff. But much more than meets the eye, in my opinion. I believe the results, but balk at the interpretation and the policy that might be drawn from this. My sense is

that the levels of unresolved childhood traumas in these folks they tested are extremely high – huge families, deprived childhoods, poverty, and who knows what else. Tons of sexual acting out as a result. And it doesn't help that so many likely have little or no education, though I know many traumatized people who are highly educated in the United States who are compulsive sex addicts. (Also, I've heard it said that sex is the poor man's addiction.)

They want to deal with these people by circumcising them. I could see them next arguing to circumcise all boys as babies – that is, traumatizing them more, and never really even getting at the roots of why they're sexually acting out in the first place.

P.S. Other articles I've read seem to hint that if men just cleaned their foreskins more they'd pass along a lot fewer diseases. So circumcising adults just seems like a simple band-aid way of "solving" the problem - like giving out psych meds.

Daniel Mackler

<http://iraresoul.com>

kaleo

☐ Posted: Wed Jan 10, 2007 4:20 pm Post subject:



Joined: 06 Oct 2006
Posts: 209

Dennis and Daniel -

I totally agree with you about basic hygiene (and the shame parents feel to discuss these things openly - as Dennis said, how many parents even feel comfortable using the word "penis"?). Also promoting use of condoms, which is seen as unmanly in some cultures. My pediatrician explained to us exactly what we should teach our son when he's older, and did not support circumcision at all. He said with proper care there are no health issues at all. But educating people in Africa, or India, or HERE in the US for that matter, remains a constant battle for funding, etc.

Kaleo

manjushri

☐ Posted: Sat Jan 13, 2007 6:10 am Post subject:



Joined: 08 Sep 2006
Posts: 146
Location: UK

Hi Kaleo,

I agree that wearing a condom is considered unmanly in many cultures including by some men in the west! (hence all the euphemisms- having a bath with your socks on etc -to express derision for the very idea of wearing a condom is considered manly in some subcultures!)

It is also significant (along with education as you say) that men in the developing world may not actually have access to clean water and soap so keeping themselves clean might be harder for practical reasons too!

Rebekah

'To be disillusioned is better than being under an illusion!'