Are there any other health benefits of male circumcision?
Yes, there are many health benefits to male circumcision. As well as reduced risk of HIV infection, circumcised men have lower risks of getting sexually transmitted infections, urinary tract infections and penile cancer, and they find it easier to maintain penile hygiene. Removing the foreskin also prevents inflammation of the glans and avoids health problems such as inability to retract the foreskin due to swelling. Circumcised men are also less likely to infect women with the human papilomavirus that causes cervical cancer.

Are there any risks associated with male circumcision?
For men getting circumcised, as long as male circumcision is carried out by a qualified doctor in a sterile health facility, the risks are extremely low. There will be minimal bleeding and a little pain, but that is all.
From a public health point of view, the biggest risk is men not complying with the need to abstain from all sexual activity for six weeks after circumcision while their wound heals. During this time the risk of HIV infection is actually higher: HIV negative men are more likely to get infected and HIV positive men are more likely to transmit HIV to their partner.

When is it best to be circumcised and why?
For preventing HIV transmission, the priority is to encourage sexually active, HIV-negative men to get circumcised. However, in the long term, the best option is for males to be circumcised just after birth, due to the simplicity of the procedure and fast healing time.

Can HIV-positive men be circumcised?
There is no requirement for a man to be tested for HIV before he gets circumcised. However, testing is encouraged and circumcision is not recommended for HIV-positive men, because there are no benefits to them or their partners in terms of HIV prevention. There is no evidence that HIV-positive men are less likely to transmit HIV if they are circumcised, and wound healing may take longer than in HIV-negative men. If an HIV-positive man resumed sexual activity before he was fully healed after circumcision, then his partner would be at higher risk of HIV infection.