

QUESTIONS

Write down any questions you may have about male circumcision and bring them to the Bophelo Pele Male Circumcision Centre, where you can discuss them with a trained counsellor.

LOCATION

The Bophelo Pele Male Circumcision Centre is located in Orange Farm in the Nelgate Shopping Complex, opposite the Stretford Train Station, and there is a registration office in a house opposite the Radipabi Primary School. Also look out for mobile recruitment points in your area.

OPENING HOURS

The centre is open from 9am to 6pm week days, and 8am to 2pm on Saturdays, except for the first Saturday of each month.

CONTACT ME

For more information or to register for male circumcision, call or send a "Please-Call-Me" to: 079 891 8733 or 071 605 9859.



Bophelo Pele
Male Circumcision Centre



Bophelo Pele

Male Circumcision Centre

What Men Should Know About Male Circumcision

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24 Hour Emergency:	Call or sms 082 415 6945

WHAT IS MALE CIRCUMCISION (MC)?

- The foreskin is the skin that covers all or most of the head of the penis of uncircumcised men. MC is the surgical removal of the foreskin from the penis.
- MC is a simple surgical procedure that requires pain prevention medication. MC should be performed by trained medical providers, and should go hand in hand with safe-sex behaviour counseling and the opportunity to have an HIV test.
- It is recommended that you have counseling and an HIV test before MC. MC does not decrease the risk of transmission from HIV positive men to their partners. HIV positive men may require a longer healing period and are at increased risk of infecting their partners during the healing process. The healing period is at least 6 weeks after the procedure.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND RISKS OF MC FOR ME?

- A circumcised penis is easier to keep clean.
- MC reduces by 60% the risk of getting HIV for men who have unprotected sex. It does, however, not provide complete protection.
- MC reduces the risk of genital ulcers and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- MC eliminates the risk of phimosis (a tight foreskin that cannot be pulled back fully).
- As for any surgical procedure, MC has some risks. However, these risks are small when circumcision is done in hygienic conditions by adequately equipped and well-trained medical staff. Most complications are minor and easily treated. The most common risks include pain, bleeding, swelling, reaction to the pain prevention medication and infection. If you decide to be circumcised at the centre, your provider will explain the signs of these complications to you so you know what to look for and can get treatment early.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT MALE CIRCUMCISION?

- Before the MC procedure, the client is given a local anaesthetic injection (pain prevention medication) in the skin at the base of his penis. This numbs the area and helps ensure that he is comfortable during the procedure. Most men report that pain after the procedure is manageable, with slight soreness for one or two days.
- A man is at risk of both getting and transmitting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections during unprotected sex, even if he is circumcised.
- The healing period after MC lasts about 6 weeks. Sex and masturbation should be avoided during this time. Men and women may be more likely to acquire or transmit HIV if they have sex before complete healing.
- To protect himself and his partner, a man should always ensure that either a male or female condom is used, regardless of whether he is circumcised or not (unless both partners were recently tested and are HIV negative and do not have sex with other partners).
- It is not clear whether circumcision has an effect on sexual pleasure. Sexual pleasure depends on many things, and is in the mind as much as in the body.
- Many women consider the circumcised penis to be more appealing for sex and easier to keep clean.

HOW DO I DISCUSS MC WITH MY PARTNER?

- If you are interested in MC, you should discuss it with your partner. This may help you to make a decision.
- If you are willing to be circumcised, you should see a counselor and take your partner along. The counselor will explain the risks and benefits of circumcision, as well as precautions you need to take in the period after surgery. This will help you to take the correct steps for healing after the procedure.
- If you decide to be circumcised, it is important that you abstain from sex until the wound is completely healed. Ask your partner to support you in abstaining from sex for six weeks after the procedure.

WHAT CAN I DO TO ENSURE I GET THE MAXIMUM PROTECTIVE BENEFIT FROM MC?

- Talk to your partner about whether or not to get circumcised.
- If you do decide to get circumcised, go to a trained provider in a clinic setting.
- Be sure to follow all the steps for safe healing that your provider explains following the procedure.
- Abstain from sex and masturbation for 6 weeks after the procedure.
- Use condoms every time you have sex once healing is complete.

WHAT ABOUT MC FOR NEWBORNS AND YOUNG BOYS?

- Parents should consider having their sons circumcised.
- Babies who are circumcised are less likely to get urinary tract infections and when they grow up, they will have a lower risk of HIV and other infections.
- MC for babies (in the first month) is simpler and recovery is faster than MC for boys or men. It is also safer, has fewer complications, and gives a better cosmetic result.
- As the Bophelo Pele Male Circumcision is a pilot, by law they are unable to circumcise men below the age of 15. Men between the ages of 15 and 17 require parental consent. However, should you wish to circumcise your child, the Bophelo Pele Male Circumcision Centre will refer you to a medical provider who can perform the procedure.

WHAT IS THE BOPHELO PELE PROJECT?

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE STUDY?

The main aim of the project is to offer free and safe male circumcision to men living in Orange Farm, and to demonstrate the effect on the health of the OF population.

WHO IS RUNNING THE BOPHELO PELE PROJECT?

This project is run by several organisations including the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Progressus, the University of the Witwatersrand, the National French Institute for AIDS Research and Society for Family Health.

IS THIS PROJECT RELATED TO THE PREVIOUS STUDY ON MALE CIRCUMCISION CONDUCTED IN ORANGE FARM?

Yes, it is. Because the previous study was successful, the current project was started.

HAS THE STUDY RECEIVED AUTHORISATION?

The project has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the University of the Witwatersrand, and by an ethical commission in France.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

You must be a man, volunteer to be circumcised and be 15 years or older and be a permanent resident living in Orange Farm.

HOW DO I KNOW WHETHER I AM CIRCUMCISED?

Medical circumcision is the complete removal of the foreskin that covers the glans (head of the penis). If you have a skin above your glans, it means that you are not medically circumcised. Trained professionals at the project can tell you whether you are medically circumcised. You can have been to an initiation school and still not be medically circumcised.

HOW WILL MALE CIRCUMCISION BE DONE?

The male circumcision in this study will be performed by trained medical doctors under local anaesthesia. Counseling will be given and HIV VCT will be offered.

HOW WOMEN CAN PARTICIPATE?

Women can receive detailed information about what male circumcision is and the health benefits it provides.

WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY?

The main disadvantages of the study are as follows:

- Having to abstain from sex during the 6 week healing period after circumcision
- The pain that may be experienced during and after surgery
- Possible complications

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

You can visit the Bophelo Pele Male Circumcision Centre. See the back of this pamphlet for location and opening hours. Alternatively look out for the Bophelo Pele Male Circumcision outreach teams who will be working in Orange Farm.

Uncircumcised



Not fully circumcised



Circumcised



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- MC is a simple surgical procedure that requires pain prevention medication. MC should be performed by trained medical providers, and should go hand in hand with safe-sex behaviour counselling and the opportunity to have an HIV test.
- You can see if a man is circumcised by looking at his penis when he does not have an erection. When men are circumcised, you can see the head of the penis. When they are uncircumcised, the head may be partially or completely hidden by the foreskin.
- When the penis of an uncircumcised man is erect (hard), the foreskin usually pulls back automatically and the head of the penis is uncovered.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND RISKS OF MC FOR MY PARTNER & ME?

- A circumcised penis is easier to keep clean.
- MC reduces by 60% the risk of getting HIV for men who have unprotected sex. It does, however, not provide complete protection.
- MC reduces the risk of genital ulcers and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as HPV (a virus that causes genital cancer in men and women).
- MC eliminates the risk of phimosis (a tight foreskin that cannot be pulled back fully).
- As for any surgical procedure, MC has some risks. However, these risks are small when circumcision is done in hygienic conditions by adequately equipped and well-trained medical staff. Most complications are minor and easily treated. The most common risks include pain, bleeding, swelling, reaction to the pain prevention medication and infection.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT MALE CIRCUMCISION?

- Women with circumcised partners are less likely to get some STIs when having unprotected sex.
- Women with circumcised partners are less likely to get cervical cancer, which can be caused by STIs transmitted during unprotected sex.
- A woman is still at risk of getting or transmitting HIV and STIs through unprotected sex with a man even if he is circumcised.
- The healing period after MC lasts about 6 weeks. Sex and masturbation should be avoided during this time. Men and women may be more likely to acquire or transmit HIV if they have sex before complete healing.
- To protect herself and her partner, a woman should always ensure that either a male or female condom is used, regardless of whether her partner is circumcised or not (unless both partners were recently tested and are HIV negative and do not have sex with other partners).
- It is not clear whether circumcision has an effect on sexual pleasure. Sexual pleasure depends on many things, and is in the mind as much as in the body.
- Many women consider the circumcised penis to be more appealing for sex and easier to keep clean.

HOW DO I DISCUSS MC WITH MY PARTNER?

- Ask your partner his opinion about MC, mention that you have heard about MC lately and you want to know what he thinks. If your partner is willing to be circumcised, you should encourage him to see a counsellor and offer to go with him. The counsellor will explain the risks and benefits of circumcision, and the precautions you need to take in the period after surgery.
- If your partner decides to be circumcised, it is important that you and he abstain from sex until the wound is completely healed. You can help encourage your partner to refrain from having sex by reassuring him that you are completely willing to wait until he is completely healed.

WHAT ABOUT MC FOR NEWBORNS AND YOUNG BOYS?

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