

QUESTIONS

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

LOCATION

The Male Circumcision Centre is located at the East Boom Community Health Centre, Boom Street, Pietermaritzburg. Also look out for our outreach team members in and around your area.

OPENING HOURS

The centre is open from 7am to 4pm week days, and 8am to 2pm Saturdays.

CONTACT US

For more information or to register for medical male circumcision, call or send a "Please-Call-Me" to 083 497 3956

Male Circumcision Centre telephone number: (033) 342 2253

Male Circumcision Centre

For free, safe medical male circumcision

www.malecircumcision.co.za



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**What Women
Should Know
About Medical
Male Circumcision**

Opening Hours : 7am-4pm Mon to Fri
8am-2pm Sat

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24 Hour Emergency : Call or sms 083 495 8653

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WHAT IS MEDICAL MALE CIRCUMCISION (MMC)?

- The foreskin is the skin that covers all or most of the head of the penis of uncircumcised men.
- MMC is the surgical removal of the foreskin of the penis.
- MMC is a simple surgical procedure that requires pain prevention medication. MMC 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.
- It is recommended that you have counselling and an HIV test before MMC. MMC 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 MMC FOR ME?

- A medically circumcised penis is easier to keep clean.
- MMC reduces by 60% the risk of getting HIV for men who have unprotected sex. It does, however, not provide complete protection.
- MMC reduces the risk of genital ulcers and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- MMC eliminates the risk of phimosis (a tight foreskin that cannot be pulled back fully).
- As for any surgical procedure, MMC 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 MEDICAL MALE CIRCUMCISION?

- Before the MMC procedure, the client is given a local anaesthetic injection (pain prevention medication) in the skin at the base of the 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 MMC 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 or not he is medically 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 medical circumcision has an effect on sexual pleasure. Sexual pleasure depends on many things, and it is in the mind as much as in the body.
- Many women consider the medically circumcised penis to be more appealing for sex and easier to keep clean.

HOW DO I DISCUSS MMC WITH MY PARTNER?

- If you are interested in MMC, you should discuss it with your partner. This may help you to make a decision.
- If you are willing to be medically circumcised, you should see a counsellor and take your partner along. The counsellor will explain the risks and benefits of circumcision, as well as precautions you need to take after surgery. This will help you to take the correct steps for healing after the procedure.
- If you decide to be medically circumcised, it is important to 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 MMC?

- Talk to your partner about whether or not to get medically circumcised.
- If you do decide to get medically 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 MMC FOR NEWBORNS AND YOUNG BOYS?

- Parents should consider having their sons medically 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.
- MMC for babies (in the first month) is simpler and recovery is faster than MMC for boys or men. It is also safer, has fewer complications, and gives a better cosmetic result.
- By law, the centre is unable to medically circumcise men below the ages of 15. Men between the ages of 15 and 17 require parental consent. However, should you wish to medically circumcise your child, the Male Circumcision Centre will refer you to a medical provider who can perform the procedure.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- **You must be a man, volunteer to be medically circumcised and be 15 years or older.**

HOW DO I KNOW WHETHER I AM MEDICALLY 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 may have been to an initiation school and still not be medically circumcised.

HOW WILL MEDICAL MALE CIRCUMCISION BE DONE

Medical male circumcision will be performed by trained medical doctors under local anaesthesia. Counselling will be given and HIV counselling and testing will be offered.

HOW WOMEN CAN PARTICIPATE?

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

WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES OF MEN PARTICIPATING?

The main disadvantages are as follows:

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

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

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

Uncircumcised



Not fully circumcised



Medically Circumcised



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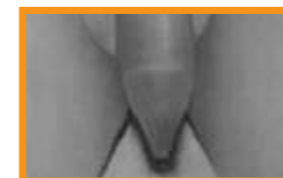
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