



ODOCH

The Gold medallist



**SAFE MALE
CIRCUMCISION**
“Stand proud
Get circumcised”
(Discussion Guide)



**A Discussion Guide on Safe Male Circumcision
for Facilitators in Uganda**

Introduction

Evidence from studies conducted in South Africa, Kenya and Uganda reveals that Safe Male Circumcision (SMC) reduces a man's chances of contracting HIV by close to 60%. Currently only 25% of Ugandan males are circumcised though the Ministry of Health (MoH) wants to increase the proportion to 50% in five years.

Uganda's MoH launched the national policy and campaign strategy on SMC for HIV prevention in September 2010. The policy and campaign seek to contribute to the reduction of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections through SMC.

Health Communication Partnership (HCP) has worked closely with the MoH to develop Uganda's national SMC communication strategy. HCP continues to provide technical assistance to the MoH to create awareness about SMC and help people make informed decisions about SMC and HIV prevention. HCP has supported MoH and other partners to develop several communication tools based on the SMC communication strategy.

This written Discussion Guide and accompanying video were developed by HCP and Fast Track Productions to help facilitate discussion among young adults about SMC. The video used with this Discussion Guide is based on a popular Ugandan television series called *The Hostel*, which is a dramedy (drama-comedy) about the endless hopes, fears, pressures and challenges that affect students at higher institutions of learning, especially those who reside in hostels. *The Hostel* has aired more than 90 episodes with more than eight million viewers, proving to be quite popular, especially among its main target audience, 18-35 year olds.

Fast Track Productions, producers of *The Hostel*, teamed up with HCP to incorporate relevant, up-to-date, key messages about SMC into its series. These SMC messages were introduced throughout different episodes of the show. The video in this Guide includes a number of clips taken directly from various episodes of this popular television show.

It is expected that young adults who participate in these discussion groups about SMC will not only become more aware of the facts and realities of SMC, but will also gain the necessary knowledge and confidence to take action and get circumcised and / or help a friend to go through with it.

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How to Use this Guide

This Guide is for Facilitators, Teachers, and Peer Educators to lead discussion groups with young men and women, ages 14 – 24, about Safe Male Circumcision. It may also be used to generate discussion among adults over the age of 24 years. The aim is to go beyond just messaging and facts about SMC. The written Guide and DVD are meant to serve as a catalyst for promoting discussion about young people's actual concerns, issues and challenges in their lives. The video clips highlight real social issues, including the importance of support systems and communication among couples and friends. The clips also offer glimpses into different concerns, realities and pressures that young people face around circumcision, protection against HIV, and safe sex.

This Guide can be used in meetings of young people in various settings, including school health education or life skills classes, out of school meetings in youth centers, or other gatherings of teens and young adults.

To use this Guide, you need:

1. Equipment and a source of power to play the DVD.
(Note: Using the video clips on the enclosed DVD is preferred, however, it is possible to conduct the sessions without using the DVD. The full transcript of the video clips can be found in Appendix A. The scenes and dialogue can be read together and acted out with participants if it is not possible to view the clips.)
2. A private place that will accommodate your group of 20-25 young people to meet and discuss personal issues and challenges.
3. Materials to record key points from the discussion or activity (e.g. flipchart or white board and markers).
4. A copy of the SMC logo (see Appendix C for a color copy of this logo) to help participants become familiar with the logo and to identify where they can get SMC services.
5. A list of places in your area where SMC services are available, so that you can refer participants to services.
(Note: If you do not know where SMC services are available near you, please be sure to call the National Hotline, **before** you conduct the Session in this Guide, to get a list of SMC services available in your district.)

**National Hotline numbers: 0312-500600 or toll free 0800-200600
OR Type SMC (leave a space) your question and send to 8198**

As a facilitator, before you lead a discussion group on SMC, you should carefully review the **Safe Male Circumcision: Facts for Facilitators** found in Appendix B of this Guide. It is important that you are prepared to provide participants with up-to-date, and accurate information about the realities of life before and after SMC; including the benefits of SMC, basic medical facts about the actual circumcision procedure, and treatment and healing after SMC.

Finally, Facilitators are expected to use a variety of participatory teaching methods to engage participants in meaningful discussions and to keep their interest and attention. The Guide offers suggestions for involving participants in large group discussions, as well as facilitating small group and pair work activities.

This Guide contains detailed instructions for a Facilitator to lead two 90-minute Sessions: **Session 1: Before Circumcision** and **Session 2: After Circumcision**. Each Session requires participants to watch short video clips, answer questions about the clips, and then engage in facilitated, active discussions with peers about real challenges and concerns in their lives.

The maximum time recommended to complete both Sessions is three hours. Each Session is designed to include just under 20 minutes of video viewing and 60-70 minutes of guided discussion. The two Sessions may be done together in one sitting, or as two separate Sessions conducted at different times/days.

Session Overview

Each Session follows the same format and includes five main Steps:

Step 1. Starting the Session

Facilitator introduces the purpose and aim of the Session to the participants.

In Session 1 the facilitator also introduces the characters in the video and the topic of Safe Male Circumcision. In Session 2, the facilitator recaps the first Session and introduces the 2nd Session.

Step 2, 3, 4. Video Clips, Questions & Discussion

For each of these three steps, the facilitator asks participants to watch and listen to a short video clip, and then answer questions about what they have viewed. The questions help to bring out key facts and concerns related to SMC. Then the facilitator engages participants in broader discussions to relate these real issues to their own lives.

Step 5. Ending the Session

Facilitator summarizes key points and asks questions to allow participants to reflect on what they have learned in the Session.

Instructions for Facilitator

Facilitators will be guided through each step of a Session using the following instructions:

SAY: When you see this instruction, you should read what is written in the Guide out loud to the group.

SHOW: When you see this instruction, you should play the video clip for the group. A brief summary of what happens in each scene of a clip is included in the Guide for you. (This information does not need to be read to the group.)

Note: *If for any reason you are unable to show the video (e.g. power cut, video equipment is not working properly), the transcript for each video clip is included in Appendix A.*

ASK: When you see this instruction, you should ask participants the 'check for understanding' questions after each video clip is viewed. These questions serve as a quick review of the clip and should not take more than 5-10 minutes to answer. Participants should provide the answers, however, in some cases, Facilitators may need to clarify or add relevant information. Facilitators should be sure that all participants have understood the key themes from the video clip, before moving on to the broader discussion.

DISCUSS: When you see this instruction, you should begin a discussion. The discussion will focus on key themes that have emerged in the video clip. The method to be used for the discussion (e.g. large group discussion, small group discussion or pair work) will be listed. You will also be given instructions and guiding questions to use to stimulate the various discussions. Be sure to allow participants time to respond and to discuss each question with one another before moving to the next question. Also, encourage participants to ask other questions related to the themes in the clip.

SUMMARIZE: When you see this instruction, you should briefly review and highlight the key points that have come out from the video clip and discussion.

Suggested time allocations for each step within a Session are included, as well as specific information for the Facilitator (**Note to Facilitator**).

Note to Facilitator

The Notes to Facilitator are in boxes like this one, and include extra facilitation tips, detailed instructions for using the different teaching methodologies, and suggestions for topics that may need further probing.

Session 1: Before Circumcision

Step 1: Starting the Session

Suggested Time: (15 - 20 minutes)

Note to Facilitator

If this is the first time for this group to come together as a group, you will need to start out with a short, fun introduction activity, so that everyone gets to say something and participants get to know each other.

If this is a group that has come together and already knows one another, simply introduce the session by explaining: why you are here today, how long you will meet, what you will be doing together, and what you expect from the group members. Use the bulleted statements below to guide you.

SAY (the bulleted statements below to introduce the session)

- Today we will spend the next _____ together.

Note to Facilitator

Say 3 hours if you plan to do both Sessions, or 90 minutes if you plan to only do one Session at this time.

- We will watch short video clips taken from a popular TV show called *The Hostel*.

Note to Facilitator

You may want to ask how many participants have seen *The Hostel*, and/or ask if any participants would like to describe in one or two sentences what they think the show is about.

- The video clips from *The Hostel* include real men and women about your age and highlight different concerns, realities and pressures that young people like you may face around safe male circumcision, protecting yourself from HIV, and engaging in safer sex.
- We are not here to tell you what you should or should not do, and this is not a health education lecture. Instead we hope that we can use this time together to discuss and critically think about real challenges and concerns in your lives around these sensitive topics.

- We hope that you will be honest, ask questions, and share your concerns and experiences with one another.
- Let's start with an introduction to the main characters of *The Hostel*. Please watch the screen and listen carefully to the narrator who will introduce the 6 main characters.

SHOW (play the Video Introduction; 1.46 minutes)

Note to Facilitator

You should be familiar with each video clip, however, you do NOT need to read the video clip descriptions to participants.

Video Clip Description for Facilitators

Odoch: This is Jasper Odoch, or Odoch as his friends call him. He is a 1st year Law student. Odoch recently learned from his girlfriend Kitty that gold medalists (circumcised men) are better lovers. She insists that Odoch get circumcised before she sleeps with him. Odoch is scared of the pain and lies to Kitty and his roommate Twine that he went for circumcision. But won't Kitty find out the truth?

Kitty: This is Kitty, Odoch's girlfriend. She is a 1st year Social Science student. Kitty was told by her friends that circumcised men or 'gold medalists' make better lovers. When Odoch tells her he is not circumcised, Kitty insists he does it.

Twine: This is Twine. He is Odoch's friend and roommate in the Hostel. He too thought that Odoch went for circumcision.

Patra: This is Patra, Kitty's best friend. She gives Kitty advice on how to handle her boyfriend, Odoch.

Dr. Patrick: This is Dr. Patrick. He is a medical doctor who works at a government hospital. He is Twine's cousin.

Mackie: This is Mackie. He is Odoch's best friend.

Note to Facilitator

After playing the video introduction clip, pause the video and leave the SMC logo on the screen until you have finished Step 1.

ASK (the 2 quick, video 'check for understanding' questions)

1. Which two characters are roommates?
2. What do we know about Kitty's expectations of her boyfriend, Odoch?

DISCUSS (lead a discussion to bring out the key themes)

Method to Use: Large Group Discussion

Note to Facilitator

In addition to introducing the main characters from *The Hostel*, during this short discussion you will also introduce our main topic: SMC. You do not need to go into detail about the benefits of SMC, as these will be discussed later in the Session. These first few discussion questions are simply to guide you to get participants talking about what they know and have heard about circumcision in general.

- Have you heard of circumcised men being referred to as "gold medalists?" Why do you think they use the term 'gold medalist'?
- How do your peers (both men and women) feel about circumcised men? (Do they think that 'circumcised men are better lovers'? Are there other common beliefs about men who are circumcised? If so, what are they?)
- What are some of the reasons you have heard about why men your age get circumcised?
- During today's discussion we are focusing specifically on Safe Male Circumcision. What is Safe Male Circumcision?

Note to Facilitator

Allow participants to answer the above question (What is SMC?). Some 'myths' about SMC may come out during this discussion. Be sure to correct any wrong information.

The following key points should be emphasized about SMC:

- SMC is the removal of the foreskin on the penis.
- SMC is done for medical reasons, not cultural. (It is different than traditional forms of circumcision.)
- SMC is done by a trained medical practitioner.
- SMC is done in a health facility.

SUMMARIZE

- We have learned just a little bit about the main characters and SMC.
- We will continue to learn more about these characters and this topic (SMC) throughout the next few video clips.
- We know that there is at least one concern between the couple -Kitty and Odoch: the issue of being circumcised!
- Kitty wants Odoch to get circumcised or be a 'gold medalist.'

Step 2: Relationships

Suggested Time: (20 minutes)

SAY (the bulleted statements below to introduce the next video clip)

- Now let's watch the first video clip and learn more about three of the main characters: Odoch, Twine and Kitty.
- As you watch the video clip for the next 5-6 minutes, please listen carefully and think about how these characters interact with one another. What do we learn about their relationships with one another?

SHOW (play video *Clip 1: Relationships*; 5.24 minutes, 3 scenes)

Video Clip Description for Facilitator

Scene 1: Odoch asks Twine if a woman can tell whether her man is circumcised or not. The question as to whether Odoch lied about being circumcised comes up.

Scene 2: Kitty comes to Odoch's room and wants to have an intimate moment with him. Odoch seems hesitant and resistant to become intimate with Kitty.

Scene 3: Twine interrupts the couple. Kitty gets annoyed and leaves the room. Odoch is relieved she has left.

Note to Facilitator

After playing the clip, pause the video and leave the SMC logo on the screen until you have finished Step 2.

ASK (the 3 quick, video 'check for understanding' questions)

- In the first scene, what does Odoch want to know from Twine?
- In the scene with Kitty and Odoch, who is interested in being intimate?
- What words or terms does Twine use to describe circumcision?

Note to Facilitator

Elicit responses to the questions from participants. However, be sure to add any missing information, or clarify any key points as needed. Below are the answers to the check for understanding questions, for your reference.

Answers (for *Clip 1: Relationships* questions)

1. Odoch wants to know if a girl can tell if a man is not circumcised.
2. Kitty is interested in being intimate with Odoch, but Odoch is resisting.
3. Twine refers to getting circumcised "getting the cover of his flash disc cut off."

DISCUSS

Method to Use: Large Group Discussion

Note to Facilitator

Remember that the above check for understanding questions are designed to allow participants to simply describe what they have viewed and to understand basic facts, while the following discussion questions are meant to help participants critically think and begin to reflect on their own lives as well. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers, and much of the discussion will involve participants sharing their own opinions and interpretations, and in some cases their own experiences.

- It was clear that Odoch did not want to be intimate with Kitty. He was even thankful to Twine for interrupting them. What do you think might be some of the reasons that Odoch did not want to have sex or be intimate with Kitty at that time?
- Do you think Odoch was being honest with Kitty about why he did not want to be intimate? Why or why not?
- Twine is also interested to better understand why Odoch does not want to sleep with Kitty. He wants to know if Odoch has been circumcised.
- How does Odoch react to Twine?
- Twine then says "if you are not going to tell me, than who are you going to tell? Are you going to keep it to yourself?" Why do you think Odoch does not want to confide or discuss his personal life with Twine?

Note to Facilitator

Now extend the discussion beyond the characters, to the participants' own lives. Encourage participants to share their own personal experiences or those of their friends.

- Did this scene/clip seem 'real' to you? Why or why not?
- Are there times when you would not want to have sex or be intimate with your girlfriend/boyfriend? If so, do you think you would need to be honest with him/her as to why you were not interested, or would it be easier to lie to him/her? Why?

Note to Facilitator

Most likely participants will have varying opinions on whether it is better to lie or to tell the truth and the above question will spark some debate within the group. As they debate this topic, ask them to think about the consequences of their actions (For example; If they lie, what might happen? If they are honest, what might happen? It may be easier to lie, but then will their relationship grow on lies? Etc.)

- Have you been in situations where your roommate or friend wanted to discuss a personal matter with you and you did not want to... what did you do?

Note to Facilitator

For this question above, encourage participants to share their own experiences. Help the group to generate a list of strategies or different options for dealing with these situations.

SUMMARIZE

- We have learned that the main character, Odoch, has actually turned down the opportunity to sleep with his girlfriend Kitty, and that he does not really want to talk with her or his roommate about it.
- We have also learned, through our discussion, that it is not always easy to be honest, however if we lie, we need to think about the consequences!

Note to Facilitator

Be sure to also include additional key summary statements that emerged from participants sharing their personal experiences about communicating with friends or roommates about personal matters.

Step 3: Why SMC?

Suggested Time: (25 minutes)

SAY (the bulleted statements below to introduce the next clip)

- We will watch other clips and learn more about the relationship and communication styles between these *Hostel* characters.
- Now, let's watch another short (6 minutes) clip. In this clip we will meet Dr. Patrick, Twine's cousin. Dr. Patrick engages in a conversation with Odoch and teaches him many facts.
- Listen to see if you personally learn any new information from their discussion.

SHOW (play *Clip 2: Why SMC?*; 6.21 minutes, 2 scenes)

Video Clip Description for Facilitator

Scene 1: Dr. Patrick, Twine's cousin, stops by to visit Twine. At that time he meets Twine's roommate, Odoch. Odoch introduces himself to Dr. Patrick, and he seems interested to learn that Dr. Patrick is a medical doctor.

Scene 2: Twine goes out to get a soda for Dr. Patrick. When Twine steps out, Odoch seizes the opportunity to talk to Dr. Patrick about his fears about SMC. Dr. Patrick highlights the benefits of getting circumcised to Odoch, and reassures him that get circumcised is very easy and painless.

Note to Facilitator

After showing the clip, pause the video and leave the SMC logo on the screen until you have finished Step 3.

ASK (the 4 quick, video check for understanding questions)

1. Why does the Ministry of Health want as many Ugandan men as possible to get circumcised?
2. What does Dr. Patrick tell Odoch about pain both during and after the procedure?
3. For how long and why is a man supposed to abstain from sexual activity after he gets circumcised?
4. What are the three main benefits of being circumcised that Dr. Patrick shares with Odoch?

Note to Facilitator

This video clip focuses on some of the potential fears that young men may have regarding SMC (e.g. fear of the pain during or after the procedure), and it informs us about the main benefits of SMC, where to go for SMC, what to expect during the procedure, and key facts about the healing period. Participants in your group may have differing levels of knowledge on all of these SMC details. As you discuss the answers to the check for understanding questions, you may need to add some 'extra' information for participants to bring out the basic facts about SMC. (See "key facts to add" below for each answer.)

Answers

1. The MoH wants as many Ugandan men as possible to get circumcised to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Uganda.

Key Facts to add about the value of SMC:

- Male circumcision offers new hope that more men can remain HIV-negative.
Recent research has shown that circumcised men are about half as likely to contract HIV from unprotected vaginal sex compared to uncircumcised men. Circumcision also protects against some sexually transmitted infections.
- 2. There is NO pain.
Before the procedure the man is given a shot for the pain (anesthetic injection) so he does not feel any pain at all during the procedure.

After the procedure, he is given medicine (painkillers) for 5 days. Most men can wear their pants/trousers right away and do not feel pain. *However, some men may feel uncomfortable and take one or more days to put on trousers comfortably.*

Note to Facilitator

You may want to remind participants that people respond differently to pain and therefore it is recommended that men who seek SMC services should do so from facilities that have the SMC logo and where the health workers have been trained and can provide anesthetic and painkillers.

Key Facts to add about the procedure:

- Pre-circumcision counseling (to help the client prepare for the procedure)
 - The doctor cleans around the foreskin.
 - The man/boy is given a shot to ensure that he does not feel pain during the procedure.
 - The foreskin is removed using a clean tool.
 - After the foreskin is removed, the wound is stitched for quick healing.
 - The wound is dressed or covered to prevent it from getting in contact with any dirt or germs.
 - The whole process of removing the foreskin and stitching and dressing the wound take only about 30 minutes.
3. A man should not engage in any sexual activity for at least 6 weeks, to give the wound time to heal properly.

Key Facts to add about healing:

- Any sexual activity during the first 6 weeks after SMC can lead to injury or infection. If he engages in sexual activity and the wound is not healed, he may actually increase his risk of getting HIV.
 - The man should visit the health worker before resuming sexual activity to be sure that the wound is completely healed.
4. Main benefits of being circumcised: 1. Hygienic, 2. Reduces man's chances of getting HIV by 60%, 3. 'girls like it'

Key Facts to add about **benefits of Circumcision:**

- Hygienic: It is easier to keep a circumcised penis clean.
- SMC reduces the risk of HIV infection for men. It also reduces a man's risk of getting many STIs.
- SMC does NOT directly protect women against HIV, but sexual partners of circumcised men may also reduce their chances of getting some STIs and cervical cancer.
- Research shows that many women prefer to have sex with men who have been circumcised as they think the penis is cleaner, and more attractive.

DISCUSS

Method to Use: Small Groups Discussion

Facilitator Preparation: Write the following three discussion questions on a flipchart or white board before beginning this discussion.

Questions for Small Group Discussion

1. What are your fears about SMC?
2. What benefit(s) would motivate you to get circumcised?
3. What prevents or stops you from getting circumcised?

Note to Facilitator

Instructions for Small Groups Activity

The participants have been sitting in one large group for awhile now, therefore, it is important to vary your teaching methods and allow participants to form small groups for this next bit of discussion.

1. Before the participants get into groups, you should write the three questions (see Facilitator Preparation above) on a flipchart or white board and review the questions with the entire group to make sure everyone understands the questions.
2. Ask participants to work in small groups of 3-4 people and to spend a few minutes discussing their fears and views about SMC with each other. Note: If you are in a mixed group, you may want to form separate small groups of men and women. For the women, you may choose to alter the questions slightly. (For example: What are the benefits (for you or your boyfriend) of being with a circumcised man? What prevents or stops some men from getting circumcised?)
3. Participants should just discuss their answers with one another. They do not have to record their responses.
4. While participants are discussing the answers in small groups, be sure to move around to each group and listen for any common responses you hear across the groups.
5. Some groups may require your assistance to help them think beyond what they just heard in the video clips. Below are a few points to make to help the small groups discuss these topics in more depth:

Fears: Ask some of the small groups to decide whether it is only the pain they fear, or do they have other fears about either the procedure or about communicating with their girl or boyfriend about getting circumcised?

Benefits: Remind participants that the main benefits they have heard about today are that it is hygienic, it reduce chances of getting HIV, and 'girls like it'. And then ask them to consider if these benefits motivate them to want to get circumcised? Why or why not? Or are there other benefits they can think of that would motivate them more?

Barriers: Remind participants that we learned that SMC is offered for free at government hospitals, and it is an easy procedure with minimal or no pain, and it has many positive benefits. Then ask them to articulate what else is holding them back from getting it done?

6. Give the small groups ~10 minutes to discuss their fears, perceived benefits and barriers with each other. Be sure to move around to the groups and listen to their comments.
7. Reconvene as one large group, and briefly review any common themes you heard. (e.g. common fears, strongest benefits, biggest barriers, do men and women view the benefits and barriers the same or differently?).
8. Use the last few minutes of this discussion to allow participants a chance to ask you any remaining questions or concerns they may still have about SMC.

You may provide them with 'extra' information related to why there is a campaign to get many young men circumcised, and/or more details about the procedure itself, and the benefits to young men and their partners.

Refer to the **SMC Facts for Facilitators** to be sure you provide correct answers to their questions.

SUMMARIZE

- Through this video clip and our discussion we have learned that SMC is a simple, minor surgical procedure with little or no pain, and it is free at government hospitals. Being circumcised has many benefits to the man (and couple), mainly that it reduces a man's chances of HIV infection by 60%, it improves a man's hygiene, and many women prefer men who have been circumcised.
- We also learned that you and others your age have many concerns about it and need to understand the realities of SMC, as well as have the opportunity to express your concerns with friends or others who know about or have experienced SMC.

Step 4: Odoch's Confession

Suggested Time: (20 minutes)

SAY (the bulleted statements below to introduce the next clip)

- At the end of the clip we just watched, Odoch heard all the facts about SMC from the Doctor. Upon hearing this, what did Odoch do immediately? (Answer: He called his best friend Mackie.)
- So, before we take a break (or end this session), let's watch just one more very short video clip. Please listen carefully to this interaction between Odoch and his best friend, Mackie.

SHOW (play *Clip 3: Odoch's Confession*; 1.5 minutes, 1 scene)

Video Clip Description for Facilitator

Scene: Odoch's best friend Mackie comes, as requested, to see Odoch. He immediately sees that Odoch seems nervous about something. Odoch reveals to Mackie that he had lied to him and others earlier about getting circumcised, but now he knows he has to get it done. Mackie assures him that it is an easy and painless procedure and encourages Odoch to go get it done now.

Note to Facilitator

After playing the very short clip, pause the video and leave the SMC logo on the screen until you have finished Step 4.

ASK (the 3 quick, video check for understanding questions)

1. What is Odoch's main motivation for getting circumcised?
2. What is Odoch still worried about?
3. What did Mackie say and do to reassure Odoch to go for circumcision?

Answers

1. Odoch wants to sleep with Kitty and he knows that she prefers men who have been circumcised.
2. Odoch is still worried about the PAIN.
3. Mackie says the same things that Dr. Patrick did. He tells Odoch that it is a simple procedure that can be done in one visit, and he reassures Odoch that he will not feel any pain at all. He also decides to go together with Odoch to the clinic.

DISCUSS (this discussion has two parts, and uses two different teaching and learning methods)

Discussion Part 1: Support Needed

Method to Use: Large Group Discussion

- As we have seen in the video clips, Odoch has learned a lot about the procedure from Dr. Patrick. Remember that Health care providers are very credible sources of information. If you are uncertain about the procedure, it is always helpful to seek advice and information from a health care provider.
- Odoch was also reassured by his friend that SMC is an easy and painless thing to do.

Note to Facilitator

After making these brief statements (the two bulleted statements above), use the guiding questions below to engage the group in a discussion about the kinds of support a man may need when deciding to get circumcised.

Allow participants time to share their thoughts about what kind of support they would want. The issue of discussing SMC with one's girlfriend should come out in this part of the discussion. Participants may also suggest other important people in their lives (e.g. parents, teachers, older siblings or other family members) who they would like to get support from when making these sorts of decisions.

Again remember, there are no right or wrong answers, but the aim is to allow participants to share with one another the value of getting support from others.

Large Group, Guiding Questions: Support Needed

- What difference do you think it will make to Odoch to have discussed get circumcised with his best friend?
- Who else do you think he could have or should have discussed this with and why?
- What other support do you think he may need to go through with this?
- What sort of support would **you** want if you were trying to make a big decision like this?

Discussion Part 2: Convincing a Friend to Get Circumcised!

Method to Use: Pair work

Note to Facilitator

Instructions for Pair Work

1. Tell participants that they are now going to work in pairs and their task is to spend the next couple of minutes trying to convince their friend/partner that SMC is worth it and that he should get it done!
2. Pairs may consist of two male friends, one male and one female friend, or boyfriend and girlfriend. Participants can decide which situation they prefer to act out in their pairs.
3. Remind participants to use all the information about SMC that they now have (from the video clips and our discussions), and consider how they will best convince their friend/partner.
4. Tell them to focus on two key aspects:
Useful information they would use to convince a friend (e.g. which benefits would they emphasize, what information would they give him to help him overcome his fears, etc.)

Kind of support they would offer him (e.g. to go to the clinic with him)

5. Remind the pairs that each person should have a chance to play the role of 'convincer'.
6. Give each pair about 5-7 minutes.
7. After the pairs have done their convincing, reconvene as a large group and ask them if they were successful in convincing their friend to get circumcised! (What information helped most?)
8. Elicit a few responses from participants before summarizing and ending the session.

SUMMARIZE

- We have learned that Odoch had 'faked' getting circumcised earlier and he was afraid to talk with anyone about it. He still has not told his girlfriend and does not want her to know that he faked it or is not ready to get it done.
- He has now learned many facts about SMC, as have we, and he has received some support and encouragement from both a doctor and his best friend. He now seems more motivated to get circumcised.
- We have also learned that we need support from our friends, partners, girlfriends and others.

Step 5: Ending the Session

Suggested Time: (5 minutes)

SAY (the bulleted statements below to review and end the session)

- During our time together we have learned about the value and benefits of SMC, mainly that in Uganda there is a campaign to get as many men circumcised to prevent new cases of HIV in our country. We have also learned that SMC is an easy, and painless procedure and is offered free at government hospitals and wherever you see the SMC logo.

Note to Facilitator

Point to the video screen with the SMC logo, or hold up the SMC logo from Appendix C.

- We have also discussed and shared our concerns about SMC and recognized that it is not only important to get accurate information about SMC, but we also need to give and/or receive support from our friends and/or family.
- So, do you think that Odoch will go through with it? Does he have enough support?
- During the break, please think about these two questions (Will Odoch go through with it, why or why not? Does he have enough support?)
- We will learn the answers to these questions and see what happens to Odoch in the next Session.

Note to Facilitator

Be sure to end the session by:

Thanking participants for their time and their willingness to participate in the discussion.

Informing participants of the time of the next Session (either immediately after a short tea break, or another day).

Encouraging participants to return and be part of the discussion, especially if Session 2 is to be held on a different day.

Session 2: After Circumcision

Step 1: Starting the Session

Suggested Time: (5-10 minutes)

Note to Facilitator

If you are gathering after a longer break (one day or more), you should welcome the group back and briefly review (ask participants to recall) what you had discussed in the first Session. Then replay the last clip (Clip 3: The Confession) from Session 1, and remind participants of the questions you left them to think about.

If you are reconvening after just a short tea break, you can choose to replay the last clip from Session 1 (Clip 3: The Confession) or you may simply want to ask the group the answers to the two questions you left them thinking about during the short break.

SAY

- During this session you will view more video clips from *The Hostel* and we will continue to talk more about real life issues, specifically about SMC, protecting oneself against HIV, and safer sex.
- As in Session 1, we are not here to tell you what you should or should not do, and this is not a health education lecture.
- Please continue to be honest, ask questions, and share your concerns and experiences with one another.

ASK

- So, what do you think: Will Odoch get circumcised? Why or why not?
- Does Odoch have enough support? Why or why not?

Note to Facilitator

Let various participants offer their own opinions. Be sure they say more than just "yes" or "no." Encourage them to offer their reasons why he will or will not get it done, and whether he has enough support or not.

Step 2: The First Six Weeks

Suggested Time: (25 minutes)

SAY

- Let's start this Session by watching a short video clip to learn if Odoch followed through with his plan to get circumcised!

SHOW (play *Clip 4: The First Six Weeks*; 5.39 minutes, 3 scenes)

Video Clip Description for Facilitator

Scene 1: Odoch returns from just getting circumcised! He is very pleased and eager to report to Twine on his accomplishment. Once Twine understands what Odoch has done, he wonders why Odoch would go under the knife twice, and is surprised that Odoch had lied to him earlier about getting circumcised. Odoch admits that he finally got circumcised because he wants to sleep with Kitty and she prefers circumcised men. Twine is happy that Odoch has "joined the club."

Scene 2: Kitty comes to see Odoch but he puts her off by lying about losing a relative, and saying that he has to fast for the next 6 weeks and cannot engage in sexual activity because of the rituals associated with his family member's death. Twine then walks in and almost reveals Odoch's secret about just getting circumcised. But Twine catches hints from Odoch that Kitty is unaware of the circumcision, and so the two men make up yet another story (lie) so that Kitty does not learn about Odoch's real situation.

Scene 3: Kitty finally leaves and Odoch is thankful to Twine for helping him to keep his secret from Kitty. Odoch and Twine go on to strategize how Odoch will be able to not have sex with Kitty for the next six weeks while he is recovering from the surgery. Twine suggests that Odoch go to the village for the next few weeks!

Note to Facilitator

After viewing the clip, pause the video and show the SMC logo on the screen until you finished Step 2.

ASK (the 4 quick, video check for understanding questions)

- How does Odoch describe the procedure to Twine?
- How does Twine now react to Odoch's news?
- What lie does Odoch tell Kitty?
- What is Twine's solution for Odoch to avoid sexual activity for the next six weeks?

Answers

- Odoch says it was very easy: "simplified like never before"; "standard stuff"
- At first Twine is confused, but once he realizes that Odoch had lied about getting circumcised earlier and now has finally done it, he is very happy for Odoch. Twine welcomes Odoch to the 'club' (of long distance runners)!

3. Odoch makes up a story about a relative dying and he is in mourning and so he must fast for the next few weeks and he cannot engage in sexual activity during this time.
4. Twine suggests that Odoch go to his village because it would be too hard to avoid sex if he stayed at the Hostel.

DISCUSS (this discussion has two parts, and uses two different teaching and learning methods)

Discussion Part 1: Do's and Don'ts in the First 6 Weeks!

Method to Use: Large Group List Generation

Facilitator Preparation: Label a flip chart "Right After Circumcision" and include two columns (Should Do, Should NOT Do). Hang the flip chart on the wall for all participants to easily see.

Note to Facilitator

Say the three bulleted statements below to participants before starting the list generation.

- In the first scene of the clip you just watched, we saw that Odoch is quite pleased with himself for finally having gotten circumcised. He told Twine it was easy ('simplified like never before'), however, we have seen that because he has not been honest with his girlfriend that he may face some challenges over the next six weeks.
- Since we are watching clips from a TV drama and not a health education video, besides the need to abstain from sex, we did not hear anything else about how to care for the wound during this first 6-week healing period. While, abstaining from sexual activity for at least six weeks is a must, there are also some other very practical things that a man should or should not do to ensure that the wound heals properly.
- So let's just quickly review together and develop a list of the *Do's and Don'ts* on caring for the wound during the first few days after the procedure.

Note to Facilitator

Instructions for List Generation Activity

1. Do not spend more than a few minutes discussing the Do's and Don'ts. If possible refer participants to other health education materials to learn more about how to care for the wound after circumcision.
2. Solicit responses from participants to quickly generate a small list by using a flip chart or white board to record participants' answers.
3. Use the chart below as your reference, and highlight any key points not included on your list generated by participants.

Right After Circumcision

Should Do	Should NOT Do
Keep bandages dry	Do not get bandage wet when bathing
Keep bandages on for two days.	Do not put any substances or medication on the wound.
Keep penis clean and dry (to avoid infection)	Do not do any heavy lifting or digging for 3 days after the procedure
Clean the wound once a day with a piece of cloth, boiled water and soap	

Discussion Part 2: Options and Consequences!

Method to Use: Small Groups Discussion (Four Groups)

Note to Facilitator

Before putting the participants into four groups, say the statement below and ask the questions to the entire group:

- As we just saw in the clip, Twine has helped Odoch keep the secret about his circumcision from Kitty. Twine also helped Odoch strategize about how to avoid Kitty and sexual activity for the next six weeks.
- Do you agree with Twine's solution for Odoch to go to the village for the next six weeks as the best way for Odoch to avoid having sex?
- Is it a realistic or useful solution? Why or why not?
- What advice or suggestions would you give to Odoch at this point?

Note to Facilitator

Participants will offer a wide range of suggestions. Some will suggest that Odoch should tell Kitty the truth and others will say he should continue to lie to her. Once these two opposing views emerge, focus the discussion on exploring the consequences of each.

Instructions for Four Groups Activity

1. Divide the participants into four groups. Ask them to stand in a circle with their group members. (Note: Since they will only be discussing the topic for a few minutes, they can remain standing. This will save time and refresh participants a bit as well.)

2. Tell participants that you would like them to explore the possible consequences of Odoch telling the truth at this point or continuing to lie to his girlfriend.
3. Ask two groups to discuss the possible consequences if Odoch continues to lie to Kitty....
4. Ask the other two groups to discuss the consequences if Odoch tells Kitty the truth about just getting circumcised now....
5. Remind all groups that both options (telling the truth and lying) may have both positive and negative consequences.
6. After giving each group ~5-7 minutes to discuss, ask each group to share or present their positive and negative consequences.
7. Make sure the groups have identified both positive and negative consequences. Highlight that making these decisions is not easy: we need to consider the consequences!
8. Use the statements below to summarize the key points.

SUMMARIZE

- Odoch has finally gotten circumcised, however he still has not communicated with his girlfriend about it and he needs to get through the next six weeks without having sex or getting aroused by her.
- As we have just discussed, if a man is unable to talk with his partner about getting circumcised, he may find himself in a difficult situation, and/or he may end up telling lies.
- We all go through a process of making decisions. It is necessary to think through our options and the consequences, and to recognize how we would feel about these consequences. We need to make decisions that feel good or right to us.
- When faced with a difficult decision, it may be helpful to talk through our options with friends or people we trust.

Step 3: Ready for Action

Suggested Time: (25 minutes)

SAY

- Let's watch another clip with two scenes that allow us to learn more about where Odoch is at with the healing process, and in his relationship with Kitty.

SHOW (Play *Clip 5: Ready for Action*; 4.40 minutes, 2 scenes)

Video Clip Description for Facilitator

Scene 1: Odoch has completed his healing period of six weeks that is required after a circumcision. He is now ready for his special night with Kitty. He is searching for condoms when Twine enters the room. The two discuss why Odoch still needs to use condoms even after he has been circumcised.

Scene 2: Kitty is visiting her best friend, Patra in the hostel. She is confiding in Patra about her concern that Odoch is not so interested in her because he has been quite distant these past few weeks. She asks Patra for advice on how to seduce Odoch. Kitty also reveals to Patra that she is a virgin.

Note to Facilitator

After playing the clip, pause the video and show the SMC logo on the screen until you finished Step 3.

ASK (the 3 quick, video check for understanding questions)

- Odoch tells Twine he needs to use condoms! What reasons does he give Twine?
- What does Kitty admit about herself to Patra?
- What advice does Patra give to Kitty for dealing with Odoch?

Answers

- Odoch recognizes that "AIDS is still on the prowl" and that SMC is not 100% effective, and that even though a man has been circumcised he can still get HIV and so he needs to protect himself by wearing a condom. He also says that he is not certain of Kitty's HIV status or her sexual history. Finally, he says he needs to use a condom so as not to get Kitty pregnant.

Key Facts to add about *circumcision and condom use*:

- Circumcision offers only partial protection.
A circumcised man still has a risk of contracting HIV and other STIs if he engages in unprotected sex with an infected partner.
- Circumcision does not offer the man's current female partners **any** protection from contracting HIV.
Partners of circumcised men should continue to insist on safe sex.
- Condoms offer dual protection: protection against HIV and other STIs and against pregnancy.

2. Kitty admits to Patra that she is a virgin.
3. Patra advises Kitty to 'play hard to get.'

DISCUSS

Method to Use: Pair Work

Facilitator Preparation: Write the three 'what if' situations on a flip chart or white board for all participants to see.

Questions for Flip Chart

What if.....

- ... you wanted your partner to come to counseling at a health center to learn about SMC?
- ... you suspected your partner who you have been dating was a virgin and he/she was not ready to sleep with you?
- ... you wanted to sleep with your partner but you were not sure of his/her HIV-status and or whether he/she was being faithful to you?

Note to Facilitator

Before asking participants to work in pairs, say the statement below and then ask the 'what if' question in the 2nd bullet to the whole group.

- While Odoch is afraid to admit to his girlfriend that he has just got circumcised, he does seem to have a clear understanding of the need to be responsible and have safe sex.
- He is not afraid to tell his roommate Twine his reasons for needing to use a condom, but what if his girlfriend Kitty told him he did not need to use a condom, what do you think he would say or do?
- Negotiating condom use, talking about your sexual history or current status, and seeking support from your partner on these issues can be challenging for many young men and women.

Note to Facilitator

Instructions for Pair Work

1. Tell participants to talk with the person next to him or her and to select one (or more) of the 'what if' situations on the flip chart/white board. Each pair should share with his/her partner what he/she would say and do if in that challenging situation.
2. Remind participants that these 'what if' situations are meant to allow them to reflect on their own (or their partner's) situation. Tell them it is important to think about the options they have, and the possible consequences of the decision they make.
3. Ask participants to put themselves in the situation and actually 'act out' (in their pairs) realistic and practical solutions of what they would do and say.
4. Give participants 5-10 minutes to discuss their practical solutions and then reconvene the whole group and ask for a few volunteers to share some of their realistic or practical solutions with the entire group.

SUMMARIZE

- We know that Odoch has not been honest with his girlfriend. We also know that he is thinking responsibly and understands the need to use a condom and practice safe sex. He is well aware that "AIDS is still on the prowl" and he knows that SMC does not protect him or his girlfriend 100% from getting HIV.
- We have seen that one of the consequences of Odoch's lie is that he has confused Kitty, and now she is doubting their relationship. We have also learned that Kitty is afraid to be honest with Odoch about being a virgin.
- As we discussed in our pairs, we are often faced with challenging situations in our lives and relationships. We need to think about our options and consequences. It is important to be honest with ourselves and our partners.

Step 4: Kitty's Confession

Suggested Time: (20 minutes)

SAY

- We now know that Odoch is ready for action with Kitty, and that Kitty is still confused by Odoch's behavior towards her. We also know that Kitty, based on advice from her best friend, is perhaps about to play games with Odoch.
- Let's see in this last video clip what happens to this couple!

SHOW (play *Clip 6: Kitty's Confession*; 4.21 minutes, 1 scene)

Video Clip Description for Facilitator

Scene: Odoch is ready to sleep with Kitty who has now taken Patra's advice and is playing hard to get. Odoch is upset with Kitty's games as she was the one who was pushing him before. She then reveals that she is a virgin. Odoch does not take the news well and Kitty storms out of the room.

Note to Facilitator

After playing this clip, pause the video and show the SMC logo on the screen until you have finished Step 4.

ASK (the 2 quick, video check for understanding questions)

1. What lie does Kitty tell Odoch?
2. What is Odoch's reaction when Kitty finally confesses the truth about why she does not want to have sex with him at that time?

Answers

1. Kitty tells Odoch that she is having her period because she does not want to sleep with Odoch now.
2. Odoch is very surprised to learn that Kitty is a virgin. He tells her that this news complicates things and makes her feel very bad about herself.

DISCUSS

Method to Use: Large Group Discussion

- Kitty finally tells Odoch that she is a virgin and is not ready to have sex with him. What do you think of Odoch's reaction to this news? Why do you think Odoch reacted this way?
- Would you have reacted the same or differently?

- Was Kitty right to have refused to sleep with Odoch? (Why or why not?)
- If you were Kitty, what would you do next?
- If you were Odoch, what would you do next?

Note to Facilitator

Before you move to *Step 5: Ending the Session*, you may want to ask the group if they know what actually happened to Kitty and Odoch in the TV drama? (Some of them may remember what happened if they viewed it on TV.)

If participants do not know what happen to Kitty and Odoch, and they are interested to know, you can share the following information with them:

Kitty and Odoch broke up after she discovered that he had lied to her about being circumcised. Then they got back together only after Odoch apologized for lying to Kitty. They both then made a promise to be honest with each other in order for their relationship to work.

Step 5: Ending the Session

Suggested Time: (10 minutes)

SAY

- During these two Sessions, through watching bits of a real life drama and our discussions with one another, we have learned a great deal about SMC and about relationships, communication and getting support when making important decisions.
- Before we end this Session, I would like to ask you to share with the group what you have learned about these topics and life situations.

ASK

Note to Facilitator

Encourage participants to share their responses with the whole group. Elicit responses from as many participants as possible, however, do not force anyone to answer a question.

- What is one new SMC fact you learned that gives you more confidence to get circumcised or to help a friend to make the decision to get circumcised?
- What kind of support have you identified that you would like to have when making an important decision, like getting circumcised?
- Based on what you have seen in Odoch and Kitty's relationship, as well as reflecting on your own relationships, what strategies do you think will help you to develop and maintain a good relationship?

SUMMARIZE

- SMC Facts: We have learned about the value and benefits of SMC, mainly that in Uganda there is a campaign to get as many men circumcised to help prevent new cases of HIV in our country. We have also learned that SMC is an easy, and painless procedure and is offered free at government hospitals and wherever you see the SMC logo.
- We all need support: We have also discussed and shared our concerns about SMC and recognized that it is not only important to get accurate information about SMC, but we also need to give and/or receive support from our partners, friends and/or family.
- Good relationships are based on honesty and open communication: We have seen that some decisions can be challenging, and that we must consider our options and consequences. In considering these

options we need to care about other's feelings, understand each other and help each other through difficult experiences.

Note to Facilitator

Be sure to end the session by:

Thanking participants for their time and their willingness to participate in the discussion.

Encouraging participants to take action!

Ask them to make an appointment to get circumcised.

Encourage them to provide support to a partner or friend to get circumcised.

Direct them to facilities nearby where they can go for services.

Providing participants with health education materials!

SMC brochure / pamphlets

SMC Fact Sheets

List of Facilities that offer SMC

Appendix A: Video Transcripts

NOTE : The two actors ad-libbed most of these scenes.

'RELATIONSHIPS'

1 INT. BOYS ROOM. DAY

ODOCH (uneasy) Hey do you think, a woman can know that you are not circumcised?

TWINE Yeah, they know, definitely know! They do. It's natural.

ODOCH What if you did it in the dark? *Twine looks at Odoch suspicious*

TWINE Don't be stupid! They have a lot of sensory nerves, it's very easy for them. Odoch!...why are you? If what I am thinking is right, there's someone here who is fooling us here.

ODOCH Who?

TWINE Odoch are you saying all that time, you were faking the pain?

ODOCH (denies) Twine, where is all of this coming from?

TWINE Ah, tell me the truth, are you circumcised or not?

ODOCH Ah, this is not a necessary conversation to be having at a time like this.

TWINE Odoch, give me a straight answer, did you or did you not?

2 INT. BOYS ROOM. DAY

Odoch is sleeping on his bed. Kitty enters the room with a polythene bag smiling when she sees a sleeping Odoch. She wakes him up

KITTY (gently) Hey, wake up.

ODOCH Ah, ah! Eh, Kitty. Hi.

KITTY Hi. I bought you something special today.

ODOCH (opens the bag) Ice cream. Why ice cream of all things?

KITTY It's hot out and I figured you needed to have something to cool you down.

ODOCH This is a bit girlish, you know that?

KITTY Because we're going to have it together.

ODOCH A bottle of swallow would have been nice.

KITTY A bottle of swallow? At this time of the day.

ODOCH There is no special time for drinking, you can knock it back at any time of the day.

KITTY Actually, I need you sober.

ODOCH You need help with your coursework?

KITTY Since when have I asked for your help with my coursework

ODOCH There is a first time for everything.

KITTY Come to think about it, there is a first time for this. (*she leans in to kiss him*)

ODOCH Oh for that! Kitty, now I'm really going to need swallow, to take away any inhibitions.

KITTY You don't need that (*continues to lean in almost like she about to kiss him*) you only need me.
Suddenly Odoch breaks from THE MOMENT, Kitty is surprised

ODOCH Twine!

KITTY What's wrong with Twine ?

ODOCH He could walk into the room at any time.

KITTY Well he is not here now, so can we get on with it?

ODOCH That's the whole essence of him walking in when we are mid way though our stuff. He'll cut it short, you know how Twine is?

KITTY Ok. Then if you worried about twine, let's go to my room where no one will interrupt us.

ODOCH And we do what?

KITTY Just what we were getting started with.

ODOCH

(about to come up with another excuse when Twine bursts into the room)

...You see what I was talking about? That is Twine for me.

Twine surprised, finds these two in an intimate embrace.

TWINE

Odoch, it is a good thing I found you here. There is something I want to talk to you about. Kitty, lock him down there

KITTY

(sarcastic) Twine, you do realize I can't 'lock him down' if you are here in the room?

TWINE

Oh yes you can, believe in yourself you can do it. If you have a problem with it, you can excuse us and leave the room.

ODOCH

It's okay Kitty, let me talk to Twine and I'll see you later.

KITTY

Odoch! You're choosing Twine over me?

ODOCH

No, I'm not! It's just that he had told me about it.

KITTY

(annoyed) You know what Odoch? Remind me next time not to come here when Twine is around. Promise you will call me .

ODOCH

I will *Kitty leaves. Twine and Odoch laugh*

ODOCH

Twine I don't know what you came to talk to me about but you saved ME. You came in at the right time. Thank you

TWINE

(laughs) So you didn't want to do this? I just wanted to mess with you. I had nothing to talk to you about.I was just coming from lectures. I saw you and Kitty and decided to mess with you.

ODOCH

You are hopeless Twine, you're very stupid.

TWINE

This is getting confusing. You got the cover of your flash disk cut off so that you could get Kitty's data..

ODOCH

..so that I could access USB.

TWINE

Aha, now Kitty brings the data and you don't want to download. What is happening?

ODOCH

It's a long story. It's complicated. Something's Twine, are just

TWINE

If you can't tell me, who are you going to tell? You not going to tell me you have an STD?
Odoch looks surprised as he stares at Twine

WHY SMC?

3 INT. BOYS ROOM. DAY

Twine and Odoch are in their room when someone walks in. Its Patrick, Twine's cousin

TWINE Eh Patrick! You're welcome.

PATRICK Thank you. How are you?

TWINE Fine. I wasn't expecting you this early. How's everyone? Home?

PATRICK Everything's fine, home is fine , Janet is fine, the hospital is just as usual.

TWINE This is my roommate Odoch, Odoch this is my cousin Patrick.

ODOCH Odoch Jasper is the name. Law. You can call me Counsel.

TWINE Patrick, let me go get you something to drink. I'll be right back. *Twine leaves room*

ODOCH Since you are a doctor, can I ask you a medical question?

PATRICK Yeah sure!

ODOCH *(a bit embarrassed)* OK, let's say, a friend of mine wants to get....!

Can't say circumcision, tries to be animative with "circumcision". Patrick looks at him confused (**Do not use gestures like cutting or scissors for this**)

PATRICK What?!

ODOCH You know.... *(animates more... Do not use gestures like cutting or scissors)*

PATRICK *(guessing)* "Circumcision!"

ODOCH That!, So a friend of mine wants...that, where should he go?

PATRICK *(laughs)* OK, first, it's not a taboo to say it. It's Safe Male Circumcision and it's quite simple, just tell your friend to go to a qualified health worker, in any hospital, as a matter of fact where I work, there's a campaign about Safe Male Circumcision.... *Odoch looks at him intrigued.*

ODOCH So it's called SMC!....Safe Male Circumcision campaign!

PATRICK Yes, and it's free at any government Hospital.... The Ministry wants to get as many men in Uganda circumcised as possible to reduce on AIDS.

ODOCH So, are there many guys getting it?

PATRICK Many! Anything to reduce their chances of getting HIV...

ODOCH But isn't it painful?.....

PATRICK None! No pain what so ever.

ODOCH No pain.

PATRICK NOTHING, and it's priority one.

ODOCH (surprised) You are lying!

PATRICK (convincing) Not at all,you are given an anesthetic injection so that you don't feel the pain anything during the procedure. Then they give the pain prevention medication so you heal with no pain.

ODOCH So how long does it take to heal?

PATRICK Only a few days and you will be able to do normal activities. And the most interesting part is you can wear pants immediately after the procedure, and walk with ease.

ODOCH A week!? So I can go there in pants and come back in pants?

PATRICK Yeah. But, you can't have sex though for 6 weeks.

ODOCH 6 weeks!?

PATRICK Yeah, just to give the area time to heal.But, the benefits are, it's hygienic and reduces the chances of getting HIV by sixty percent. And besides girls like the way it looks and the confidence it gives you.

ODOCH Oh so it doesn't protect against HIV 100 percent?

PATRICK No. You still have to use condoms.But think about it, if a condom breaks, you're most likely covered... *Odoch has been listening attentively.*

ODOCH But in my culture we don't do it.

PATRICK (assuring) Oh no, SMC has nothing to do with some cultures or religions, I am a Catholic from Western Uganda and I did it. *Odoch does not look convinced and smiles.*

ODOCH But it sounds complicated...

PATRICK Actually you can get done with all this in just one go. You go there and on that day it is done.

ODOCH (smiles) I just have,...I mean my friend just has to make one visit?

PATRICK (smiles) Just one visit. And remember no pain. *Twine walks in with soda bottles.*

TWINE Am sorry I had to take this long, but I hope Odoch has been a good host.

PATRICK Yeah we went along just fine. *Patrick's phone rings.*

PATRICK (gets it out) That is me, it's a text..... (as he reads) I am sorry guys I need to go.

TWINE An emergency?

PATRICK You know how it is brother. (Gets up and grabs a drink)

PATRICK You don't mind if I...

TWINE No, knock your self out. *Patrick turns back to Odoch*

PATRICK Oh hey, you should come by some time. *Twine looks at him questioningly and follows Patrick out the door. Odoch takes a deep breath and picks his phone dials a number.*

ODOCH Hey Maki, I want to see you urgently. Pass by New Edge when you get time.

4 INT. BOYS ROOM. DAY - LATE MORNING.

Odoch in his room pacing back and forth. Mackie walks in.

MACKIE (concerned) My man what's up? *Odoch looks at him, trying to find how he's going to tell him this.*

ODOCH I need your help,...in confidence.

MACKIE Man what is the matter you are scared? *Takes a moment, looks at Mackie, Mackie looks him like "what!"*

ODOCH I need to get circumcised. *Mackie looks confused.*

MACKIE Wait, I am lost, didn't you do it that already? *Odoch seats back and sighs in guilt. Shakes his head in shame "no"*

What? Why did you lie then?

ODOCH Because I wanted to get lucky with Kitty, and now our relation is balancing on that now.

MACKIE She knows?

ODOCH No!!! And I want it to stay that way.

MACKIE So you guys haven't done anything yet?

ODOCH Are you slow or what? I just said that. She'll know that am not....circumcised. *He jeers, nodes his head in disbelief of Odoch.*

MACKIE Much as am disappointed in you, you need to go do it.....

ODOCH But the pain!

MACKIE There's no pain, brother, I promise you, those guys give you pain killers.

ODOCH Yeah, Patrick, Twine's cousin, told me the same.

MACKIE Just go there, you'll get it done in one visit.

ODOCH One visit!

MACKIE Man, be a man, just go before the rest know. Odoch looks at him feeling the point Mackie is making. *Odoch looks worried.*

ODOCH Will you go with me? *Mackie jeers.*

MACKIE Man up man, come lets go. *They get up.*

5 INT. BOYS ROOM. – DAY (AFTER THE SMC)

Odoch enters the room whistling with a packet of painkillers in his hand and Twine looks up at him in surprise

TWINE Are you OK?

ODOCH Yes, I'm just happy. *Nods his head, goes back to his book. Twine looks at him curiously, Odoch looks to be in such ease.*

TWINE Dude, there's something different about you.

ODOCH Dude, I finally did it.... *Twine looks at him wondering "what" it is.*

TWINE That's my man! You've sealed the deal, she's your forever.

ODOCH (confused) Who are we talking about here?

TWINE Kitty?

ODOCH No! I'm talking about circumcision. I finally got circumcised.

TWINE Odoch! Which human circumcises twice?

ODOCH I didn't get circumcised the first time, I faked it. But this time I went I got circumcised by a qualified health worker. Safe Male Circumcision. *Twine surprised.*

TWINE No Odoch, you can't be flaunting yourself around, singing and all a few hours after circumcision. *Odoch smiles.*

ODOCH Twine this is circumcision on another level, like never before. You can wear trousers afterwards.

TWINE That's it, that's what Patrick asked you to come for. If it's true, welcome to the club of long distance runners.

6 INT. BOYS ROOM. DAY 14

Kitty walks in, Odoch is surprised. He puts the book away. And seats up.

ODOCH Kitty cat, what a nice surprise. *Kitty smiles.*

KITTY How's my babe, I came to apologize, the way I stormed out of here a few days ago.
She walks to him, seductively. She put her hand on him and to his face, she looks deep him his eyes.

KITTY (softly, seductive) I missed you....your smell....
As she starts to stroke his head and run her fingers down his chest, Odoch is thrown off edge with that sensuality.

ODOCH Ah.....Kitty.....yooooou do know Twine is coming back?
But Kitty just goes on regardless as she caress him, strokes his body, Odoch is trying to hold her back but her charm is too strong.

KITTY (as she does her bit) How long will he be gone.

ODOCH (concerned) Anytime now....

KITTY (tries to take off his shirt) Well lets get to work then . *And when she got to his pant, he gets up abruptly. Kitty is surprised.*

KITTY What?

ODOCH I....I...I am fasting!

KITTY Since when, and the Lent is over!

ODOCH No, no, not Lent, my family lost a member and we fast....food, drinks....even sex.
Kitty looks at him and not entirely convinced

KITTY Why didn't you tell me, you lost someone close to you, who?

ODOCH Ahm....my....ah....grandfather. *Kitty compassionate.*

KITTY You lost your granddad and you are here?

ODOCH No....he was,...my father's father's cousin from another mother of their father....so....
He animates "I don't know"

KITTY (confused) Whoa....!

ODOCH (nodes his head) Hm mm.... I've to shave my hair... the whole mourning experience.
Kitty starts to look concerned.

KITTY So what can I do? *Odoch looks confused and caught.* Twine walks in, to his surprise and Kitty's.

KITTY (fake smile) Twine,...always with the wrong timing.

ODOCH Yeah man. *Looks at him with the "thank you man" and relief.*

TWINE You are not serious. *Goes over to his side to get puts off his jacket.*

KITTY Babe I'll leave you mourn, I'll call you.

ODOCH Ok love *They peck. And she leaves. Door closes*

ODOCH Man, I can't think of a better time for you to have come in. *Twine turns to look at him.*
Man I don't know what am going to tell Kitty for the next six weeks.

TWINE What?

ODOCH Six weeks man, I don't have to engage in any extra curricular activities....NO SEX. *Twine laughs*

TWINE Well I don't know how long you can fight her charms. *Jokingly prays as he puts his hands together and looks up.*

ODOCH Lord give me the strength....the woman you gave me.... *They laugh with Twine.*

7 INT. BOYS ROOM . MORNING.

Odoch looking through his closet, setting his clothes whistling, a good mood he is in.
Twine reading his book, he turns and looks at him.

TWINE You seem to be in a good mood.

ODOCH That's right my man, do you know what today is? *As he smiles, Twine looks on curious.*
Brother, today, this cute guy right here, gets lucky. *As he points to him self, joyed.*

TWINE "Lucky!" Did you win a lottery or what?

ODOCH Better my friend, better! *He laughs.*
Today marks the end of my six weeks of healing, and that means the gun is good to aim, and ready to fire. *Twine laughs and jeers in a mockery sense.*

TWINE Congrats man!

ODOCH So, where are the condoms?

TWINE But..why?

ODOCH What do you mean, why?

TWINE (smiles) Anyway, check the drawer *Odoch checks but finds an empty box of condoms*

ODOCH (holding the box) Twine...where? What? Anyway , I'm not surprised. It looks like this box was torn in a hurry.

TWINE Don't worry, I have more in the reservoir. (pointing to his suitcase) *Odoch gives him a high five*
(straight) But do you really need them?

ODOCH What's that supposed to mean?

TWINE You have Kitty. Have fun! Make up for lost time.

ODOCH Eh, wait Twine! No, look. How sure am I that I am her first? She's friends with Jessica, how can I be sure I'm safe? Yes, I've done the SMC thing but it's not full foolproof, AIDS is still on the prowl

ODOCH No, you're not getting what I'm saying, Kitty is innocent.
I am hoping so but I can't take chances. Can't risk it, I don't know her past -I have to use protection when I am with her. You know this SMC thing is only 60% effective, you should know that- you have a doctor in your family.

TWINE I wasn't told that before they circumcised me...

ODOCH What?

TWINE I was a kid – I was circumcised against my will.

ODOCH Anyway you get my point I need those condoms. Among other things, imagine Kitty getting pregnant.
Twine smiles back, Odoch shakes his head.

8 INT. GIRL'S ROOM - DAY.

Patra and Kitty. Patra and Kitty are bonding and talking, with some music in the back ground from the radio.

KITTY I have a problem. *Patra looks at her, concern.*

PATRA What is it babe? *She giggles in shame*

KITTY I have never done it. *Patra looks at her.*

PATRA What...like it....it *Kitty shakes her head "never"*

PATRA You are a virgin? *Kitty looks ashamed nodes her head.*

PATRA You know that's nothing to be ashamed about.

KITTY But Odoch doesn't know.....

PATRA And he's pushing you into it, isn't it?

KITTY No,no, on the contrary, he has been blowing me off lately everytime I made an advance.
Patra looks confused. Kitty sees her look. I know.

PATRA Has he been sick or some thing?

KITTY He has been fine.

PATRA But...

KITTY Not really, we haven't found thetime, between Twine's abruptappearances and him avoiding the questions, it's hard. I don'tknow what am going to do for thedate later today.

PATRA You guys have a date? Okay, then why are you telling me?

KITTY Because I need you advice. Maybe I'm doing things the wrong way.

PATRA One thing I know for sure is men like it when you play hard to get.

KITTY Really?

PATRA Really! You can turn him on then leave him hanging , pretend that you want then you don't. It works.

KITTY Really? I think that's why –I've made it too easy for him. I've been giving him my all.

PATRA Yeah, you do that. Acts like you want then you don't *The girls laugh and give each other a high five.*

9 INT. BOY'S ROOM - DAY - DAY.

Odoch all dressed up and looking well, he has cut his hair. He looks in the mirror. He turns to reading table, that has been transformed in to a romantic setting. He sits and waits for Kitty.. The door opens, flawless Kitty, Hair, clothes, walks in, Odoch smiles.

ODOCH The cynosure of all things beautiful.... *She blushes and smiles.*

KITTY You clean up well too. *As she straightens his collar. They hug. Odoch pulls up a chair for her. They sit and Odoch holds her hand.*

ODOCH You really look beautiful.

KITTY Thank you.

ODOCH So how was your day?

KITTY The day was ehnn...there, there... *As she animates.*

ODOCH Now, it has begun. *Kitty smiles and he strokes her cheek. She pulls away in a subtle way but Odoch realizes it.*

ODOCH So can I offer you a drink?

KITTY Please, thanks. *Odoch pours her a drink in her glass. Goes turns on the radio and starts to sway from sides to side, trying to dance, Kitty giggles at his strokes.*

ODOCH These where the jams of our day. *As he pulls strokes that are weirder, Kitty laughs*

KITTY Looks like your days are in your head and so is *She laughs.*

ODOCH What! Them moves you can't comprehend....Come on show me what you have sexy mama. *Kitty gets up enthusiastically, like Odoch poked into a hornet's hive.*

KITTY You better step back, *Kitty pulls out the amazing dance strokes "bend over," that has Odoch mesmerized. The way she moves, has Odoch at the brink of loosing his mind, he watches on with lust, she pulls sensual moves around him. Odoch can't watch any longer, he pulls her close as she "bends over," Kitty flinches at his touch and pulls away fast. Odoch surprised.*

ODOCH Why do you keep doing that?

KITTY What?....Lets just eat. *Kitty even tired of dancing. Odoch not willing to let it go. Grabs her hand.*

ODOCH Talk to me....

KITTY Where's the food? *She tries to avoid it.*

ODOCH Please talk to me. *She pauses and looks at him, sighs.*

- KITTY** Look, Odoch I don't want to do any thing tonight. *Odoch surprised*
- ODOCH** What! I got circumcised for this? *Odoch holds mouth after his blubber. Kitty surprised.*
- KITTY** You got circumcised? *He shakes his head in denial.*
- KITTY** Is that why you've been avoiding me?
- ODOCH** No! *She gets up in fury. He is scared.*
- ODOCH** Ok, ok, I did....
- KITTY** So you lied to me?
- ODOCH** No, no I didn't mean to....my dear. *Odoch tries to grab her arm, she pulls away pissed off.*
- KITTY** Don't dear me,...I've had it with you!
- ODOCH** (*pleading*) But Kitty my love I did it for you, you, your self said that you enjoy it gold.
- KITTY** Why did you just say it from the start, you had me thinking that it was my fault.
- ODOCH** Then why can't we do it now?
- KITTY** Because am in my cycles. *Odoch looks surprised.*
- ODOCH** Liar, I know your cycles. *Kitty scared of that statement.*
- KITTY** You are sick you know that!
- ODOCH** Then what's the true reason... you are not in your cycles, you are not in any pain.... I've been with you for this long you think I would know such useful information.
Look of surprise on her face. Kitty looks away in shame.
- ODOCH** You have also been waiting for this, why would you lie.....unless, it's the unthinkable....
Odoch has s looks of surprise on his face, Kitty has guilt.
- ODOCH** You are a virgin!
- KITTY** (*defensive*) You say it like it's a disease or something
- ODOCH** But you *lied!*
She is gripped with fear. Odoch with a disappointed look like a child finding out that his Hero died. Kitty starts to tear and at a loss of words.
- ODOCH** You lied to me? And you have the nerve to throw the stone like am the only sinner in the room?
Kitty looks away in shame. Odoch just shakes his head, grabs his phone and exits. Kitty just sits on his bed, left in the room with a romantic ambiance but with her inside all torn up.

Appendix B: SMC Facts for Facilitators

Understanding the Realities and Benefits of SMC

Why is safe male circumcision being promoted?

(Why should I care about it?)

- Male circumcision offers new hope that more men can remain HIV-negative.
Recent research has shown that circumcised men are about half as likely to contract HIV from unprotected vaginal sex compared to uncircumcised men.
Circumcision also protects against some sexually transmitted infections.
- Research also shows that many women prefer to have sex with men who have been circumcised as they think the penis is cleaner, and more attractive.

It is very important that men understand what male circumcision will and won't do for a man and his female partner(s) before he undergoes the procedure.

Does circumcision offer 100% protection from HIV and other STIs?

NO.

- Male circumcision is not a vaccine, and it is not a cure-all. It is simply one of the best ways to prevent HIV infections in men, right now.
- Circumcision offers only partial protection.
A circumcised man still has a risk of contracting HIV and other STIs if he engages in unprotected sex with an infected partner.
- Circumcised men should continue using condoms to protect themselves and their partner(s) from infection.

Does circumcision offer my female partner any protection from contracting HIV?

NO.

- Circumcision does not offer the man's current female partners *any* protection from contracting HIV.
Having sex with a circumcised man does not protect his female partners from HIV. Partners of circumcised men should continue to insist on safe sex.

Who should NOT get circumcised?

- HIV positive men.
A man / boy will be tested for HIV before SMC. HIV testing is not mandatory, but knowing your HIV status may affect your decision to get circumcised.
- Men or boys with any of the following conditions should NOT get circumcised:
 - Wound or diseases around the genitals
 - Discharges from the urethra
 - Sickle cell anemia

Remind participants that a qualified health worker will examine the man/boy before the procedure to make sure that it is safe for him to get circumcised at that time.

Why should HIV positive men NOT get circumcised?

- There is currently no evidence that circumcising men already living with HIV will reduce the likelihood of HIV being transmitted to their sexual partners.
- Men with severe immunodeficiency are at an increased risk of complications following surgery.

Understanding the Procedure

Research in Uganda has shown that many men have unanswered questions about what SMC actually entails, how long one takes to heal – and therefore to resume sexual intercourse and to resume work, how to nurse the wound after circumcision, and other very practical, real life concerns.

What exactly is SMC?

Safe Male Circumcision = SMC.

- SMC is the removal of the foreskin on the penis.
- SMC is done by a trained medical practitioner in a health facility or a mobile clinic.

What happens during SMC procedure?

- The doctor cleans around the foreskin.
- The man/boy is given a shot to ensure that he does not feel pain during the procedure.
- The foreskin is removed using a clean tool.
- After the foreskin is removed, the wound is stitched for quick healing.
- The wound is dressed or covered to prevent it from getting in contact with any dirt or germs.

How long does the procedure take?

- The whole process of removing the foreskin and stitching and dressing the wound take only about 30 minutes.

How will I feel right after the procedure?

- Most men can wear their pants/trousers right away and do not feel pain.
Note: Some men may feel uncomfortable and take one or more days to put on trousers comfortably.
- Before the procedure the man is given a shot for the pain, and after the procedure, he is given painkillers for 5 days.

What are the risks or what kind of complications may occur?

- Complications and/or risks from SMC are very rare.
- Complications may include bleeding from the wound, or pain when passing urine.

Understanding Healing and Life After SMC

How long will it take me to completely heal?

- Full healing takes 6 weeks.
During this time, the man MUST abstain from any type of sex so that the wound can completely heal.

Note: Remind participants that any sexual activity during the first 6 weeks after SMC can lead to injury or infection. If he engages in sexual activity and the wound is not healed, he may actually increase his risk of getting HIV.

- The man should visit the health worker before resuming sexual activity to be sure that the wound is completely healed.

How will I care for the wound? Or

Can I take care of the wound myself? (Yes.)

- Keep bandages dry.
The doctor will put on bandages after the procedure. Keep the bandages dry. (Do NOT get them wet when bathing.)

You can take the bandages off after two days, or if you prefer, you can get the bandages removed at a health facility.

- Keep your penis clean and dry to avoid infection.
- After the bandages are removed, you may resume washing your penis.

Clean the wound once a day with a clean piece of cloth, boiled water and soap. (Do NOT put any substances or medication on the wound.)

- Do NOT do any heavy lifting or digging for 3 days after the procedure.

Why do I still need to use condoms or practice safer sex after I have been circumcised?

- SMC is not immunization from HIV! (Circumcised men can still get HIV and other STIs.)
- After SMC, you still need to remember to always use methods to reduce your chance of becoming infected with HIV. Remember ABC:
 - **A**bstaining from sex is the best way to prevent getting HIV.
 - **B**eing faithful to one sexual partner.
 - Using **C**ondoms correctly every time you do have sex.

Appendix C: SMC Logo



For more information about Safe Male Circumcision, visit the nearest Health facility where you see the SMC sign or call the National Health Hotline numbers on **031 2 500 600** or **0800 200 600**
OR Type **SMC** (leave a space) **your question** and send to **8198**

