

Circumcision: Changing the Conversation

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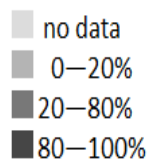
MAR 7 1990

* PG : 0

IT'S A BOY!



Global Map of Male Circumcision
Prevalence at Country Level:



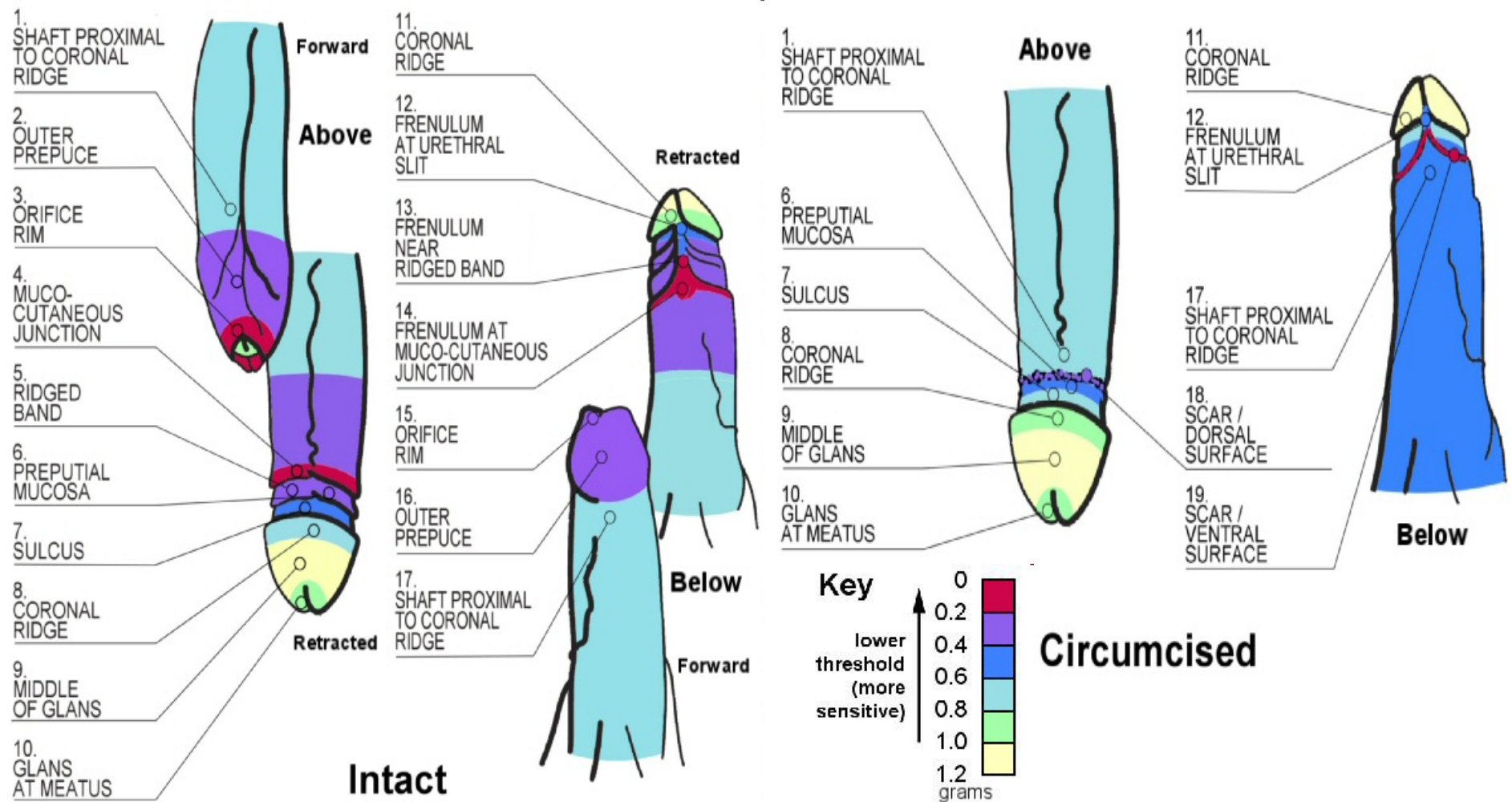
According to WHO:
who.int/hiv/pub/malecircumcision

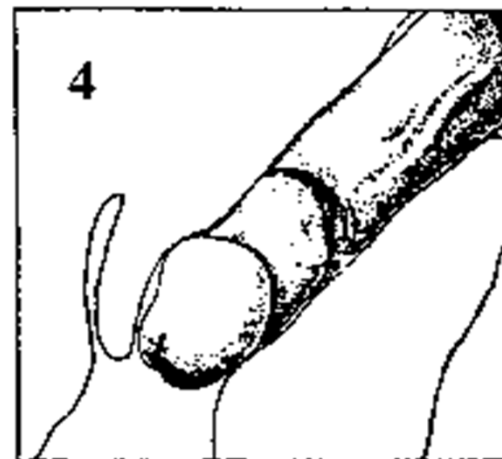
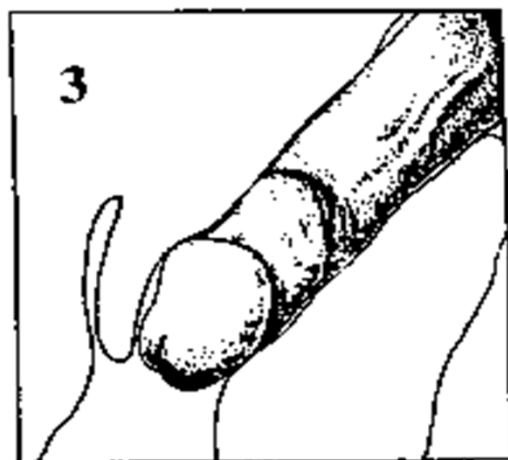
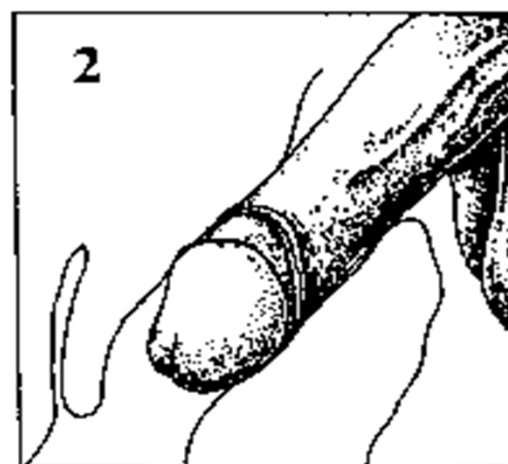
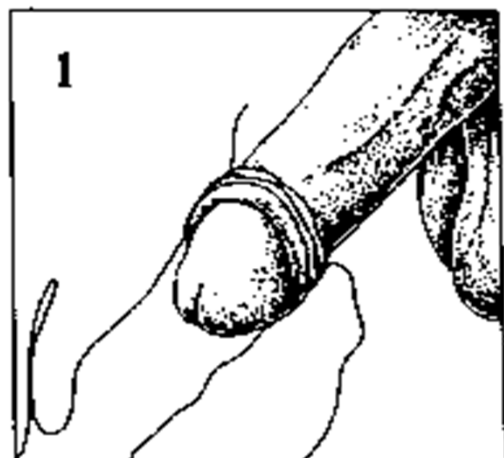


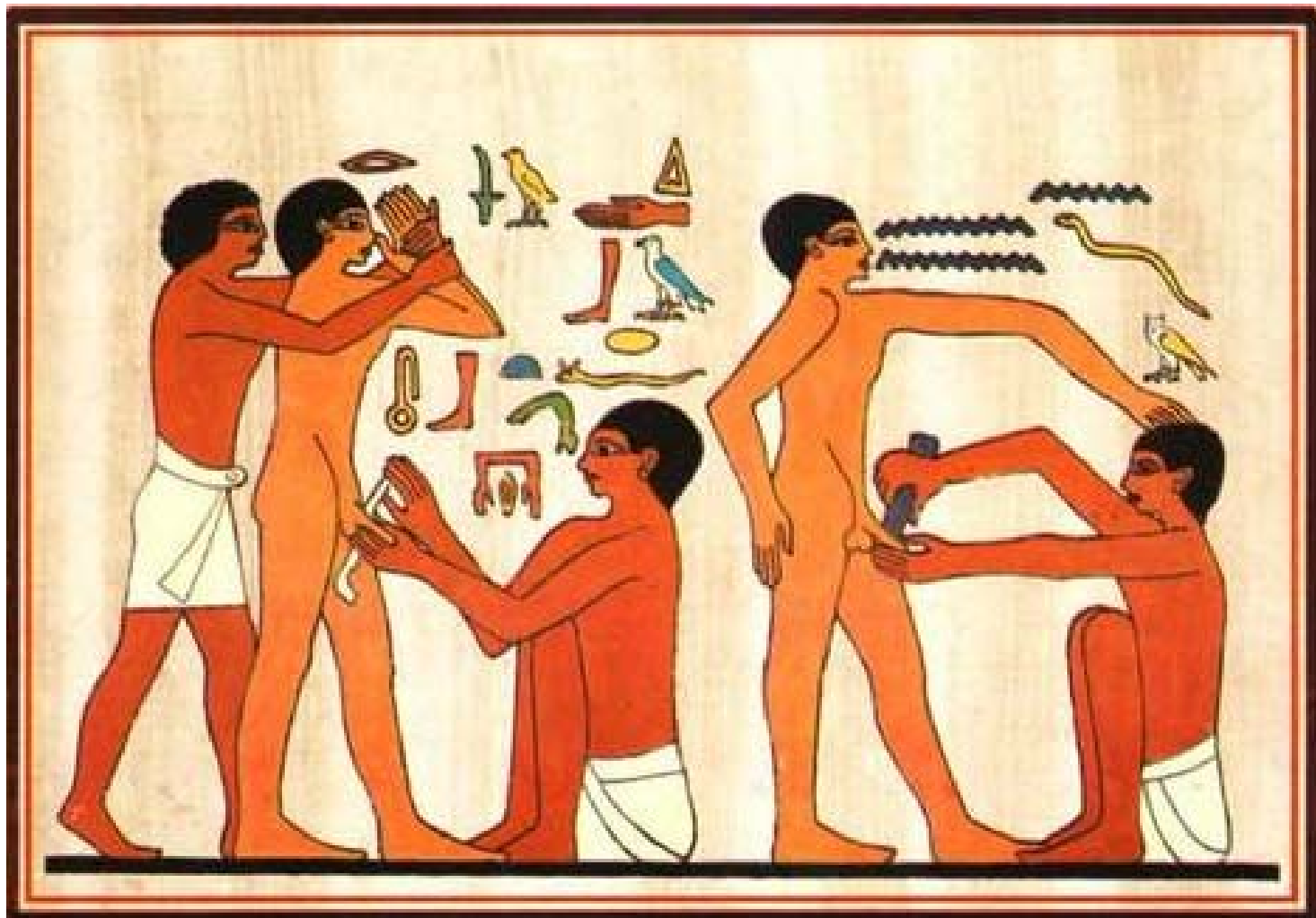
“Specialized Mucosa of the Penis and its Loss to Circumcision” Brit J Urol 1996 Feb(77): 291-295



“Fine Touch Pressure Thresholds in the Adult Penis” BJU International 2007 Apr;99(4): 864-69







6th Dynasty Ancient Egypt (2400BC)



Semitic Tribes in Middle East



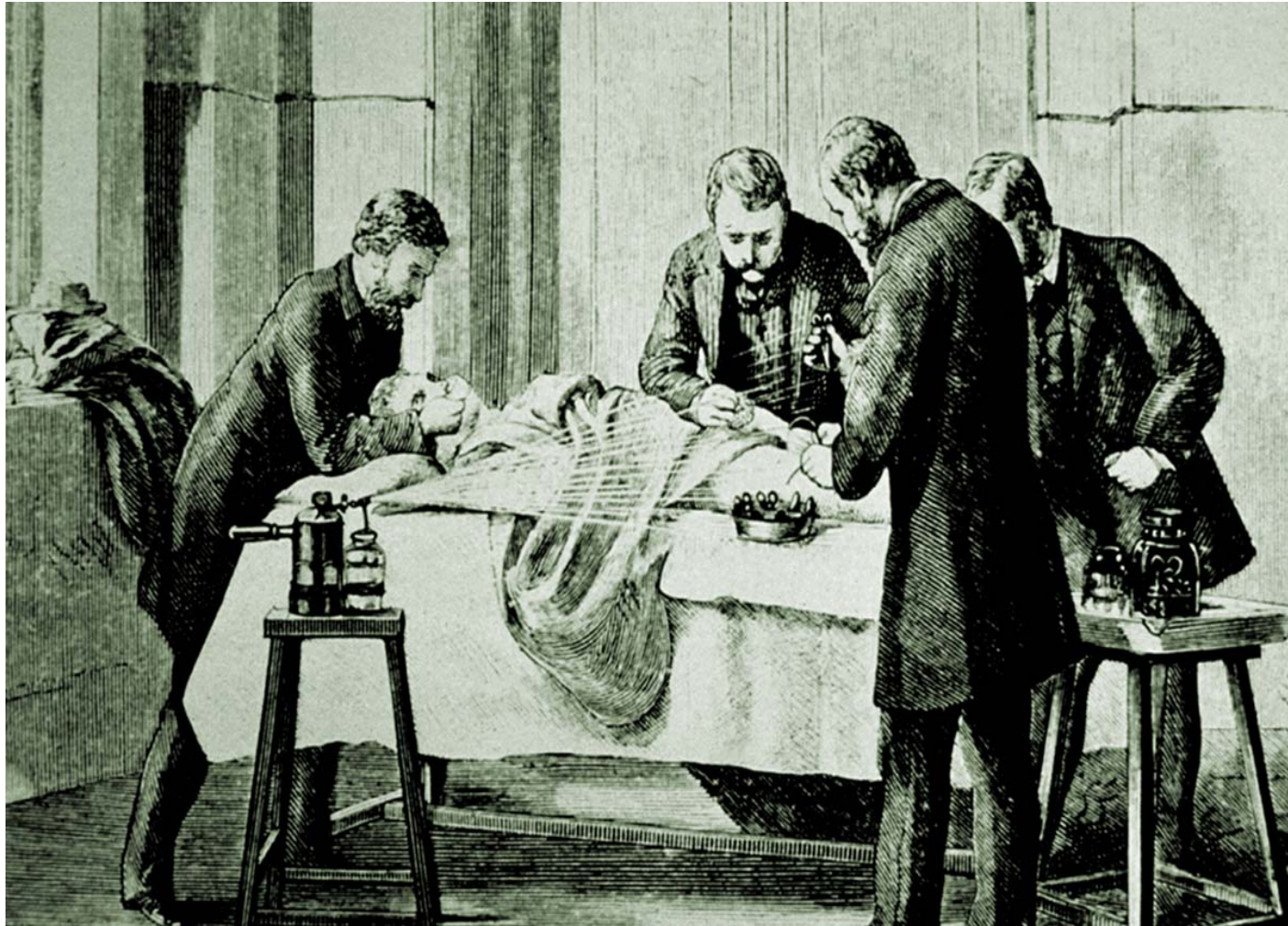
Ancient Greece



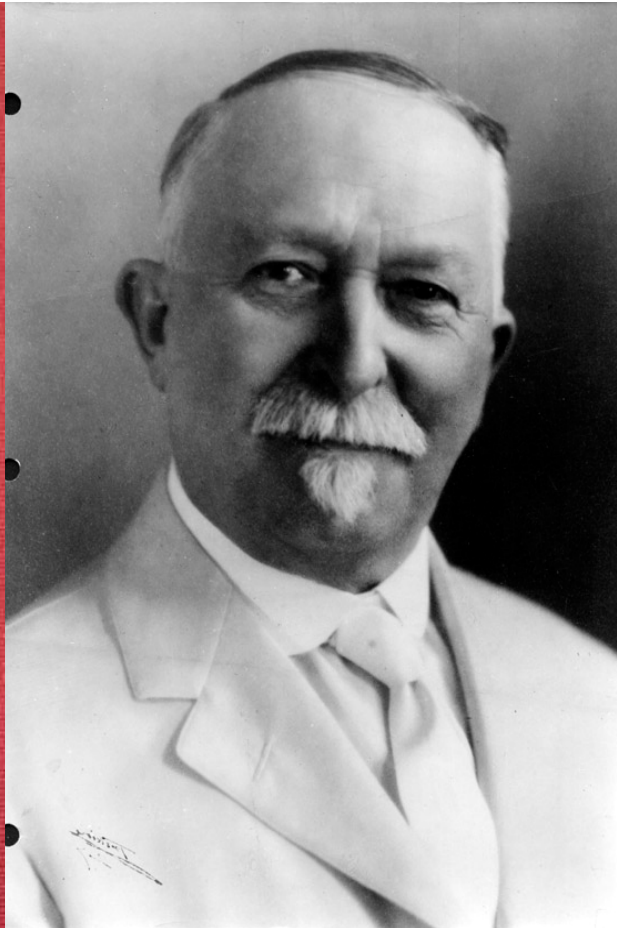
Roman Empire



Middle Ages



Victorian Era



“Treatment of Self-Abuse and Its Effect – Plain Facts for the Old and Young” Segner & Co (1888) p. 107



1845 Edward Dixon declares circumcision cures
masturbation.



1855 Jonathan Hutchinson claims circumcision
prevents syphilis.

“On the Influence of Circumcision in Preventing Syphilis”, Medical Times and Gazette 1855;32(844): 542-543



1865 Nathaniel Heckford claims circumcision
cures **epilepsy**.

“Circumcision as a Remedial Measure in Epilepsy and Chorea” Clin Lectures London Hospital 1865;2: 58-64



1870 Lewis Sayre claims circumcision prevents
spinal paralysis.




1873 Joseph Bell claims circumcision cures
bedwetting.

“Nocturnal Incontinence Cured by Circumcision” Edinburg Medical Journal 1873 May;1(9): 1034



1875 Lewis Sayre declares circumcision prevents
scoliosis, paralysis of the bladder, and clubfoot.



1879 H. Kane claims circumcision cures
nocturnal emissions and abdominal neuralgia.




1881 Maximillian Landesberg claims circumcision
cures all **eye problems**.

“Affections of the Eye Caused by Masturbation” Medical Bulletin 1881 Apr;3(4): 79-81



1890 William Gentry claims circumcision cures
blindness, deafness, and dumbness.

“Nervous Derangements Produced by Sexual Irregularities in Boys” Medical Current 1890 Jul;6(7): 268-74



1894 P. Remondino claims circumcising Black men
prevents them from **raping White women.**



1894 H. Rosenberry claims circumcision cures
rectal incontinence.



1914 Abraham Wolbarst claims circumcision cures
tuberculosis.

“Universal Circumcision as a Sanitary Measure” JAMA 1914 Jan 10;62(2): 92-7




1926 Abraham Wolbarst claims circumcision
prevents **penile cancer**.

“Circumcision Prophylactic against Penile Cancer” *Cancer* 1926 Jul;3(4): 301-10



1942 Abraham Ravich claims circumcision prevents
prostate cancer.

“The Relationship of Circumcision to Cancer of the Prostate” J Urol 1942 Sept;48(3): 298-9



1949 Eugene Hand claims circumcision prevents
prostate cancer, venereal disease, & cancer of the tongue.



1949 Abraham Ravich claims circumcision prevents
cervical cancer.

“Prophylaxis of Cancer of the Cervix by Circumcision” New York State Journal of Medicine 1951 Jun;51(12): 1519-20



You can put lipstick on a pig,
but it's still a pig.



Auvert B, et al. "Randomized controlled intervention trial of male circumcision for reduction of HIV infection risk." *PLoS Med* 2005;2(11): e2

Bailey R et al. "Male circumcision for HIV prevention in young men in Kisumu, Kenya: A randomized control trial." *Lancet* 2007;369(9562): 643-56

Gray R et al. "Male circumcision for HIV prevention in men in Rakai, Uganda: A randomized trial." *Lancet* 2007;369(9562): 657-66





- Primum non nocere
- Autonomy
- Proportionality

Trigger warning: disturbing images.



Article 6 “...every child has the inherent right to life and bodily integrity...”

Article 37a “...no child shall be subject to torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment...”

Article 34a “...no child shall be subject to sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual torture...”

Article 24c “...no child shall be subject to traditional practices prejudicial to the health of the child...”

“Convention on the Rights of the Child” UN General Assembly Document A/RES/44/25 Nov 1989



Conversation Points

- ~~Uncircumcised~~, shift to term “intact”
- Most boys in Canada are intact
- Foreskin is complex, specialized structure
- Sexual functions for males & females
- From religious ritual to Victorian quackery
- Circumcision: the “cure” in search of a disease
- Intact care is easy: do not retract foreskin
- Physician biases – Examining our motivations
- Does circumcision pass medical ethics tests?
- Human Rights & Equality