



Maternity & Beyond

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Circumcision

Circumcision is a volatile topic today. There are two basic schools of thought on the issue. The first is that circumcision should not be performed because there are no medical benefits. They see it as simply a cosmetic procedure that is performed out of tradition or the desire to be like most other people. Groups who feel circumcision should not be done advocate that the procedure is a mutilation of a boy's sexual organs. The other side of the spectrum is the groups who do advocate circumcision. They feel there are medical and/or social benefits that necessitate circumcision. Many pediatric associations around the world state that circumcision has no medical benefits and that it is simply a cosmetic procedure. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recently stated that there *may* be medical benefits to the procedure but does not recommend routine circumcision of male infants. There seems to be a lot of emotion surrounding this issue. We recommend that people weigh the facts and make a responsible decision instead of simply doing it because others in the family do, or because it is a majority in this country. Here are some resources that may assist families in their search for information.

National Organization of Circumcision Information Centers (NOCIRC)

PO Box 2512

San Anselmo, CA. 94979-2512

(415) 488-9883

Fax: (415) 488-9660

www.nocirc.com

A non-profit organization dedicated to educating people about circumcision, and committed to keeping children's sexual organs intact.

Circumcision Resource Center

www.circumcision.org

A non-profit educational organization that informs the public and professionals about all aspects about the practice of circumcision.

Circumcision Information and Resource Pages

www.cirp.org

This is an internet resource providing information about all aspects of circumcision.

American Academy of Pediatrics

www.aap.org/policy/re9850.html

Lots of info about the AAP's policy and views on circumcision. The pamphlet about caring for the uncircumcised penis is also found here.

<http://circumcision.net>

Provides info about ritual circumcision (known in Hebrew as a bris). This site advocates that a bris is a more humane and less painful procedure than the medical counterpart. There is also a phone number to find a mohel (a Jewish performer of a bris).