

# Male Circumcision



# What is circumcision?

- Circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin in boys. Typically performed within hours or days of birth.

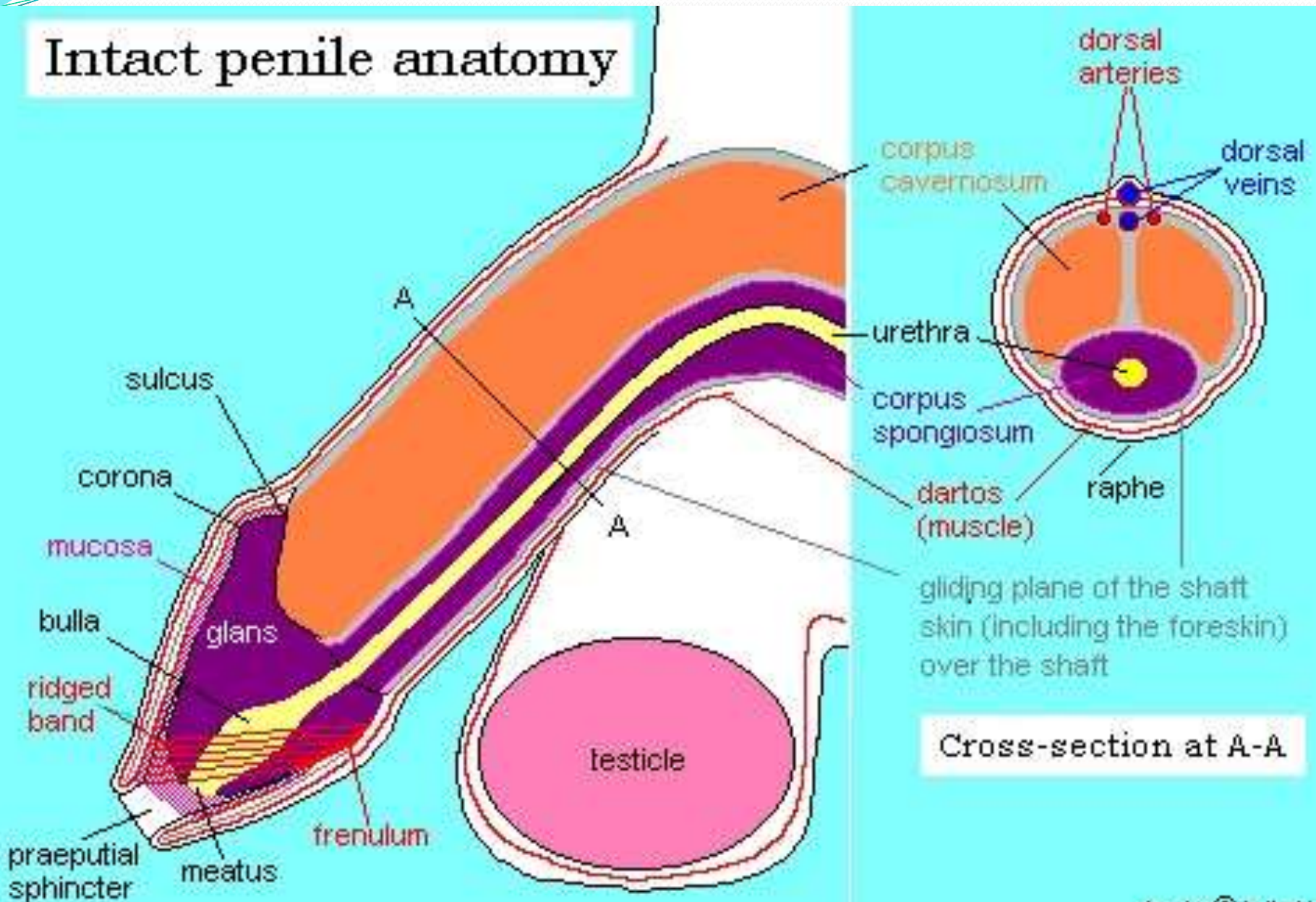


(This is an image of an actual circumcision tray for the Gomco circumcision procedure)

# What is the foreskin?

- The prepuce, or foreskin, is a highly erogenous organ with many anatomical structures. Some of the anatomy of the foreskin are:
  - The Frenulum (highly sensitive bundle of nerves)
  - Meissner's Corpuscles (pleasure receptors)
  - Frenar or Ridged Bands (keeps the foreskin forward, protecting the glans when the penis is flaccid. When the penis becomes erect, the band expands, allowing the foreskin to slide over the glans)
  - Dartos Fascia (temperature receptors)
  - Several feet of blood vessels (aids in maintaining an erection)
  - Apocrine Glands (produces pheromones)
  - Sebaceous Glands (aids in natural lubrication)
  - Immunological System (antibodies, antibacterial, and antiviral)

# Intact penile anatomy



Cross-section at A-A

# How are circumcisions performed?

(Warning! The next few slides are graphic, and not intended for individuals under 18 years of age)

- Circumcisions are performed, most commonly, by 3 different methods:
  - The Gomco Clamp Method
  - The Mogan Clamp Method
  - The Plastibell Method
- Today we are going to show the most common here in the United States, The Gomco Method.



# Step 1) Restraint

- The infant is undressed and restrained in a Circumstraint. This is a molded plastic device that straps down the baby's arms and legs.





## Step 2) Cleansing of the area

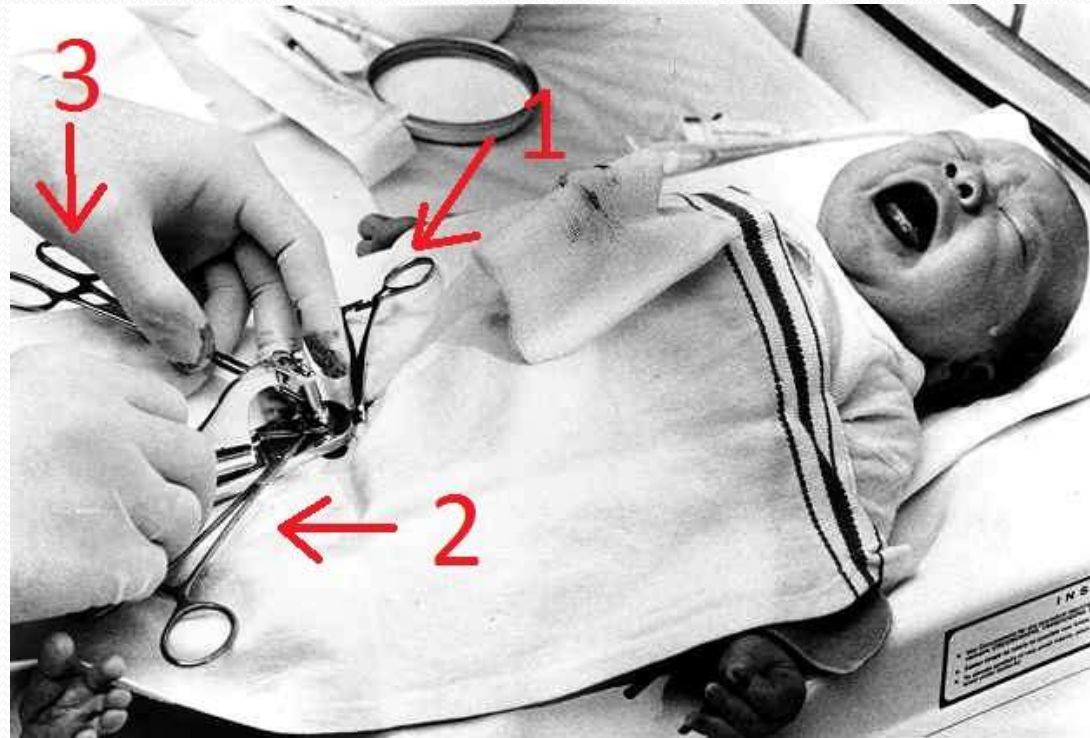
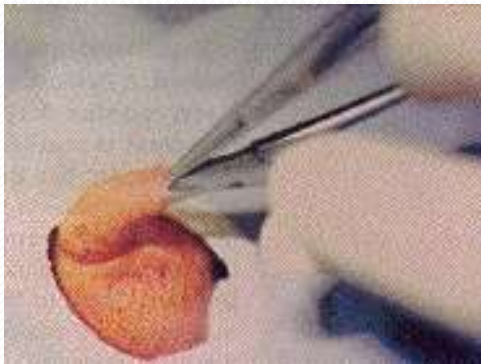
- The penis and testicles are swabbed with an Antiseptic, such as Betadine. This is not only done to clean the area, but also to elicit an erection to better guesstimate how much foreskin to remove.





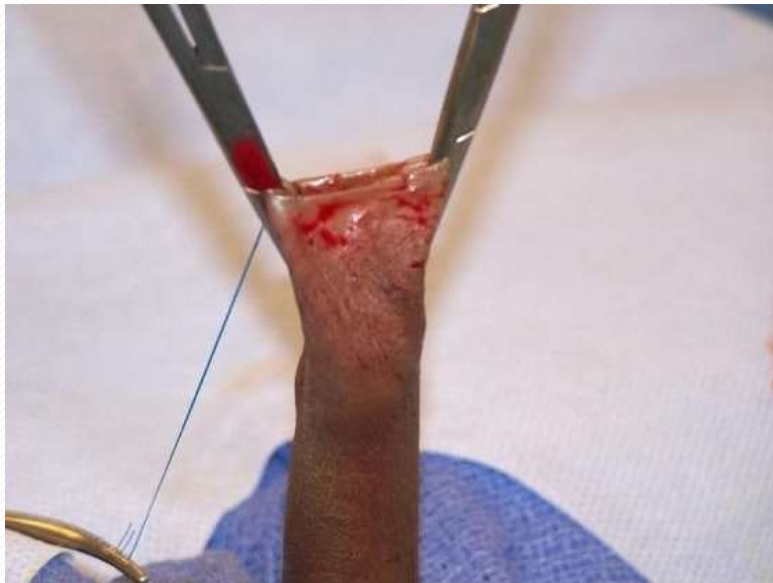
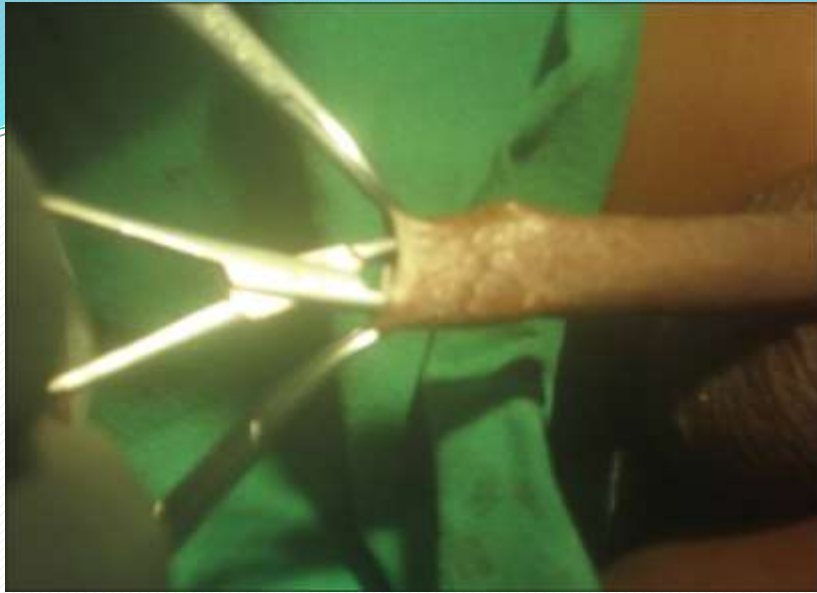
# Step 3) Hemostats

- Hemostats are clamped onto the tip of the foreskin for traction.
- Typically 2 or 3 are clamped on.



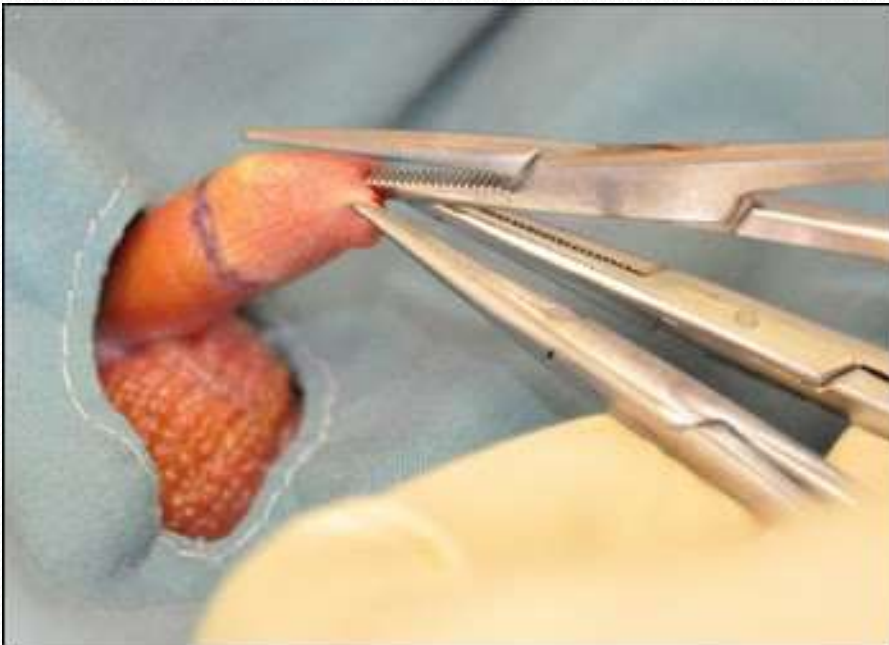
## Step 4) Separation

- At birth the foreskin is fused to the glans (head) of the penis, much like your fingernails are fused to the nail bedding matrix of your fingers. This fusion bond is called the balanopreputial lamina. The circumcision professional will force a blunt probe, surgical scissors, or a fine hemostat underneath the foreskin and tear this bond.



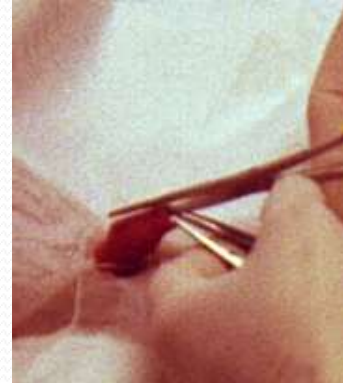
# Step 5) Dorsal crush line and slit

- A crush line is crimped into the foreskin for a type of “cut along the dotted lines” guide for the circumcision professional. A dorsal slit is then cut along the crush line with surgical scissors.



(crush line)





(Dorsal slit)

## Step 6) Placing the bell

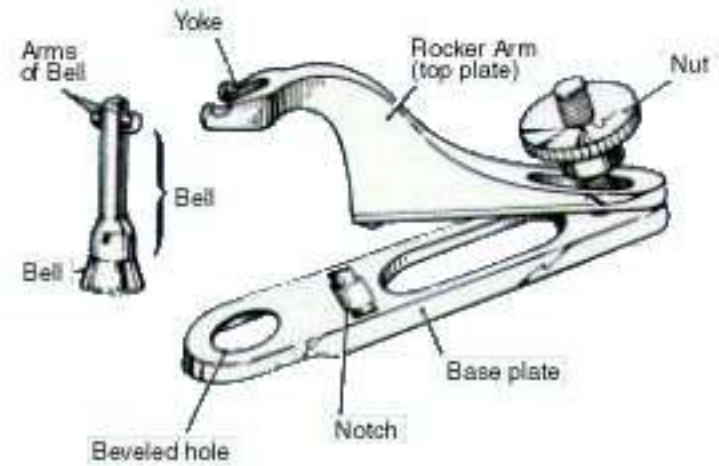
- Once the foreskin has been slit open, a metal bell is placed over the glans and the foreskin is safety pinned back together.



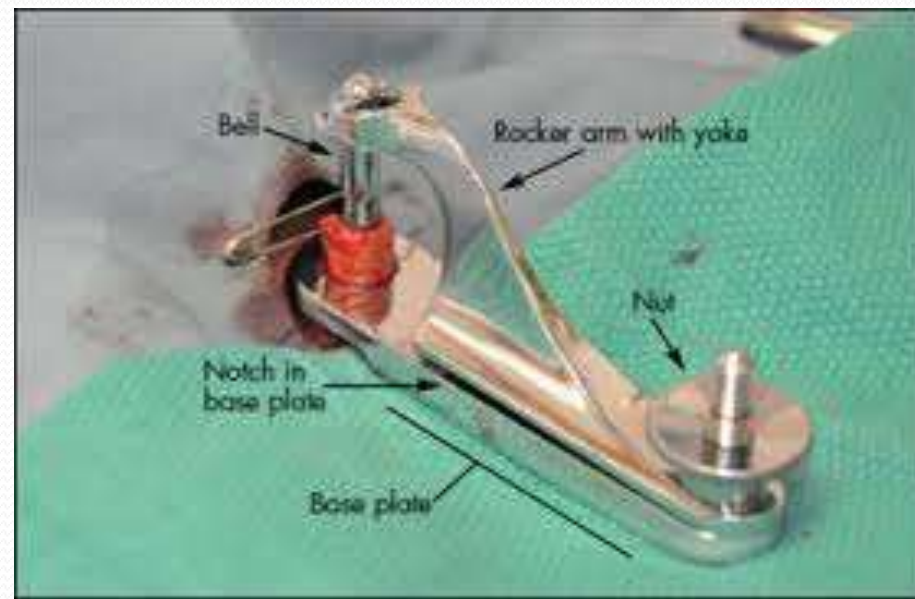


# Step 7) The Gomco Clamp

- Once the bell is securely in place the clamp, called the Gomco Clamp, is then placed. The clamp is aligned with the bell, and then the nut is slowly turned, crushing the foreskin between the bell and the clamp.
- The device must stay clamped on the penis for several minutes to cease blood flow to the organ.

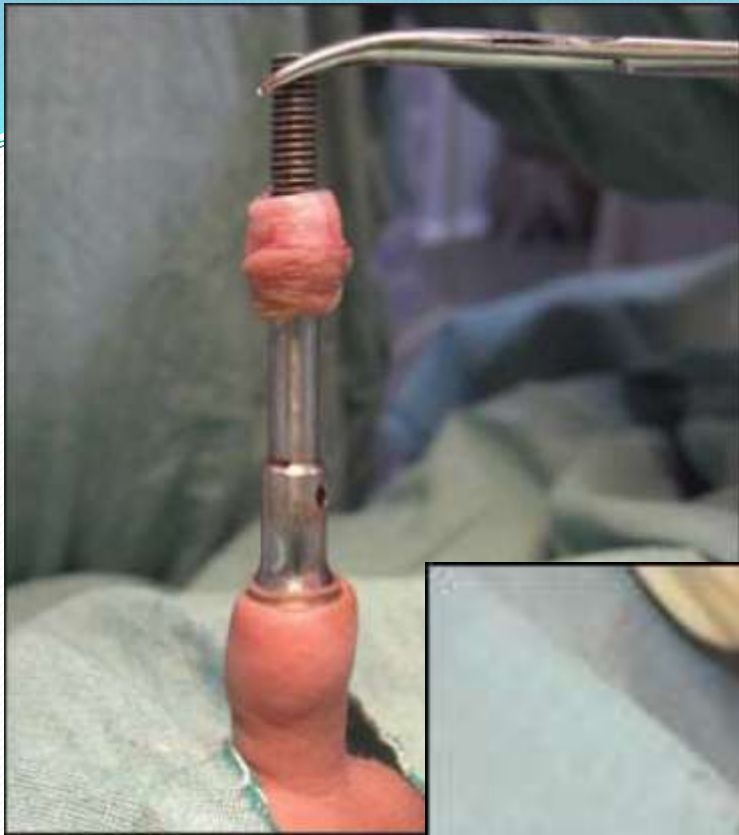






## Step 8) Excision

- Finally, after the foreskin has been through the trauma of hemostats, separation, crimping, cutting, crushing, and then clamped for an extended period of time, it is finally excised with a scalpel. The circumcision professional presses the blade of the scalpel against the bell and slices the foreskin off completely.



# Step 9) Completion

- Upon the foreskin's removal the clamp is then loosened, and the bell (and excised foreskin) is removed. Now exposing a raw, bloody glans.





# Step 10) Dressing

- Upon completion of circumcision the new wound is treated with petroleum jelly, and bandaged.





# Well, at least there are medical benefits from it, right?

□ Absolutely not. There are zero conclusively proven medical benefits from performing this surgery on unconsenting individuals. The American Medical Association classifies neonatal male circumcision as a *non-therapeutic* procedure. It is completely unnecessary, purely cosmetic (it is even billed as a cosmetic surgery), and has no benefits whatsoever.

□ So why do we do it?

# Two words: Cognitive Dissonance

- (noun): psychological conflict resulting from incongruous beliefs and attitudes held simultaneously.
- This simply means circumcision is so “normal” within our society, that when presented with an alternative view, no matter how evidence based, or conclusive the evidence, one rejects it anyway.
- This does not help keep our boys safe from this excruciating experience. Only we can save them; through education, a little open mindedness, and a lot of love.



Will YOU take the pledge to research  
circumcision and protect our most  
vulnerable of citizens?

**After all, a person's a person,  
no matter how small.**

