



Men's Sexuality: Circumcision

What is circumcision?

During a circumcision, the foreskin, which is the skin that covers the tip of the penis, is removed. Circumcision is usually performed on the first or second day after birth.

How many men in the United States are circumcised?

Approximately 55-60% of male babies born in the United States are circumcised each year. This percentage varies across the United States. Circumcision is more common in the US, Canada, and the Middle East; it is less common in Europe, Asia, South America, and Central America.

Why do men get circumcised?

Parents choose to circumcise their infant sons for a number of reasons, including cultural, religious, hygienic, and social reasons. For some people, the decision to circumcise a child is very easy; for others, it may be a more difficult decision. Most medical professionals recommend that parents decide whether or not to circumcise their child before the baby is born.

What are the pros and cons of circumcision?

Potential pros

- Studies show that circumcision can reduce the risk for certain infections and diseases in men, including:
 - Urinary tract infections (UTI)
 - Penile cancer (although this is rare in all men, whether circumcised or not)
 - HIV
- It is easier to keep a circumcised penis clean, although boys can easily learn how to care for an uncircumcised penis.

Potential cons

- As with any surgery, there is a chance for complications. The risk is low, though (occurring in approximately 0.2% to 3% of cases). Complications include minor bleeding and local infection.
- There is much controversy regarding pain that infant boys may experience during circumcision. Many doctors now provide local anesthesia before the procedure.

How does someone care for an uncircumcised penis?

Parents should wash their son's uncircumcised penis during each bath using soap and water. There is no need to clean beneath the foreskin until it retracts on its own, which usually happens around age five (in fact, pulling on the foreskin before it retracts may cause discomfort or pain). When the foreskin retracts, the boy should be taught to clean under his foreskin by gently pulling the foreskin, cleaning with soap and water, rinsing, and pulling the skin back over the head of the penis every time they bathe or shower. This will help to keep the penis clean from infection and irritation.





How can being circumcision affect a man's sexuality?

Being circumcised or not may affect a man's sexuality in a number of ways. Men who are not circumcised must use care during sexual activity; pulling the foreskin back too hard may cause discomfort, pain, or even bleeding. There is also extra care that should be used when putting a condom on an uncircumcised penis; the foreskin should be pulled back before putting on the condom to ensure it fits properly and stays in place during sexual activity.

In terms of sensitivity and pleasure, the research is mixed on how circumcision may affect a man's sexuality. Some men report greater sensitivity, pleasure, and satisfaction following circumcision, while other men report that those feelings decrease. Overall, the research points to a loss of sensitivity, but not necessarily a loss of pleasure and satisfaction; the tip of a circumcised penis can still be quite sensitive, despite the loss of foreskin and nerve endings.

Are all of Pure Romance's products safe to use on men who are not circumcised?

All of Pure Romance's products are safe to use by men who are not circumcised. Most products, including Time in a Bottle and X-Scream, can be applied the same to an uncircumcised penis as to a circumcised penis. Some products, though, may require extra care during use. For example, when a man uses a penis sleeve, he may need to pull back his foreskin. This type of product should be used similarly to a condom. Regardless of whether a man is circumcised or not, he should find the best products for him and use them as directed.

