THE FUNCTIONS OF THE FORESKIN

SEXUAL FUNCTIONS

1) The foreskin is erogenous tissue, with dense concentrations of Meissner’s corpuscles (sexually sensitive fine-touch nerve endings). The glans contains relatively few fine-touch nerve endings.

2) The foreskin fold provides sufficient skin length to accommodate penis growth and allow for comfortable erections.

3) The mobile fold of the foreskin acts as a linear bearing, allows for a gliding action with penetration and the motions of intercourse.

4) The foreskin cuff helps retain natural sexual lubrication.

5) By reducing friction in these ways, the foreskin makes sex more comfortable for both partners.

6) The self-stimulating interaction of the foreskin and the glans allows for closer and gentler contact between partners with the motions of intercourse.

7) Possibly because of this closer contact, women report greater ease of orgasm with vaginal sex with intact men.

PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS

1) The foreskin protects the glans from chemical irritation, mechanical abrasion, and keratinization, keeping it soft, moist, and comfortable throughout life.

2) The foreskin protects the delicate urinary opening from irritation and inflammation. Because of the loss of the foreskin’s protection, meatal stenosis is typically found only in circumcised males.

3) The muscle fibers in the foreskin act as a sphincter, keeping out foreign matter.

4) The foreskin is self cleaning; every time the child or man urinates, the orifice is flushed outward.

5) The rich vascular beds in the foreskin keep the glans warm in cold conditions.

6) The moisture under the foreskin contains lysozyme, an immunologically active substance.

7) Langerhans cells in the foreskin secrete Langerin, a protein which conducts viruses to organelles for destruction.

8) Plasma cells in the foreskin secrete immunoglobulins into the space under the foreskin.

Plus other sexual or protective functions not yet known or understood.

Circumcision alters all of these functions. The AAP circumcision statement mentions NONE of them!

Citations available at: www.cirp.org

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FINDINGS
Circumcision removes the most fine-touch-sensitive areas of the penis.
The glans is the least fine-touch-sensitive part of the penis.