

# Is Genital Mutilation Justified?

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According to the Torah (Genesis 17: 9-14), Abraham was commanded by God to circumcise himself, all male members of his household, his descendants and slaves in an everlasting covenant. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

There are also health benefits:

- 1) A decreased risk of urinary tract infections.
- 2) A reduced risk of some sexually transmitted diseases in men.
- 3) Protection against penile cancer and a reduced risk of cervical cancer in female sex partners.
- 4) Prevention of balanitis (inflammation of the glans) and balanoposthitis (inflammation of the glans and foreskin).
- 5) Prevention of phimosis (the inability to retract the foreskin) and paraphimosis (the inability to return the foreskin to its original location).

However, like any surgical procedure, there are risks associated with circumcision. However, this risk is low. Hence male circumcision is not genital mutilation and should be encouraged throughout society based on the health benefits.

Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is the ritual cutting or removal of some or all of the external female genitalia. The practice is found in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and within communities from countries in which FGM is common. UNICEF estimated in 2016 that 200 million women living today in 30 countries—27 African countries, Indonesia, Iraqi Kurdistan and Yemen—have undergone the procedures. The practice is rooted in gender inequality, attempts to control women's sexuality, and ideas about purity, modesty and beauty. It is usually initiated and carried out by women, who see it as a source of honour and fear that failing to have their daughters and granddaughters cut will expose the girls to social exclusion.

Adverse health effects depend on the type of procedure; they can include recurrent infections, difficulty urinating and passing menstrual flow, chronic pain, the development of cysts, an inability to get pregnant, complications during childbirth, and fatal bleeding. There are no known health benefits and therefore FGM should be banned.

Further information can be found at

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Female\\_genital\\_mutilation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Female_genital_mutilation)