



Acceptability of Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention in PNG Study

A Joint JCU, PAU, DWU Study 2010-2012. NHMRC Project Grant 601903



'Stronger or Tougher' Reasons for penile cutting in Papua New Guinea

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on behalf of the
Acceptability of Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention in Papua New Guinea Study Team

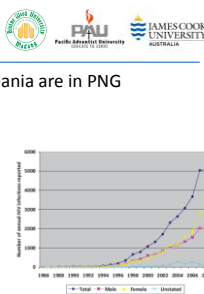
Papua New Guinea

South Pacific country of great diversity
6.8 million people
600 Islands
800 languages
22 provinces
4 regions
87% people live in rural or island villages



HIV in Papua New Guinea

- More than 90% all HIV infections in Oceania are in PNG
- 34,100 people living with HIV in 2009
- 3,200 new HIV infections in 2009
- 1,300 HIV related deaths 2009
- Main transmission heterosexual
- National HIV Prevalence 15-49 yrs 0.9%
 - Southern 1.17%
 - Highlands 1.02%
 - Momase 0.63%
 - New Guinea Islands 0.61%
- Surveillance data suggest some levelling off in spread of HIV in PNG



http://www.unaids.org/en/gettextanalysis/zoomingcountryprogress/2010progressreports/submittedbycountryin/papuanewguinea_2010_country_progress_report_en.pdf

NACS (2010) Papua New Guinea HIV Prevalence: 2009 Estimates. PNG National AIDS Council. Port Moresby.

Male Circumcision and HIV

- Clinical trials in Africa have show male circumcision can reduce HIV acquisition in men by 60%
- WHO/UNAIDS recommend that Male Circumcision
 - be recognized as an additional strategy in a comprehensive HIV prevention package in populations where HIV is primarily heterosexually acquired, there is a generalized epidemic and relatively few men are circumcised.
 - be evidence based and responsive to the local contexts
- Male circumcision is a prioritized research area in the 2008-2013 Papua New Guinea National AIDS Council Research Agenda

Aswad S, Tadjari G, Legerde S, Sobogel T, Mambue L, Uta R, Puren A. Randomized, controlled intervention trial of male circumcision for reduction of HIV infection risk: the ANRS 1265 Trial. *PLoS Med*. 2005 Nov;2(11):e298.

Estey JC, Meites S, Parker CD, Agot K, Mwachiro S, Oringer JK, et al. Male circumcision for HIV prevention in young men in Kisumu, Kenya: a randomised controlled trial. *The Lancet*. 2007;369(9521):648-55.

Gray RH, Agot K, Gervasi G, Mwaniki F, Wacha S, Nduggu J, et al. Male circumcision for HIV prevention in men in Rakai, Uganda: a randomised trial. *The Lancet*. 2007;369(9521):647-55.

UNAIDS & WHO 2007 *New Data on Male Circumcision and HIV Prevention: Policy and Programme Implications*. Geneva: UNAIDS.

Investigating Male Circumcision in Papua New Guinea

The *Acceptability of Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention in PNG* study is at 4 sites in PNG where people from across the country come to study or work.

- Describe and categorise male genital cutting
- Examine social, cultural and religious understandings and practices of male genital cutting
- Assess the capacity of health providers to deliver male circumcision services.

Porgera : Gold Mine

Madang: Divine Word University

Port Moresby: Pacific Adventist University

Popondetta: Oil Palm Plantation

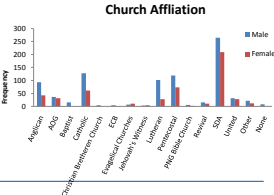
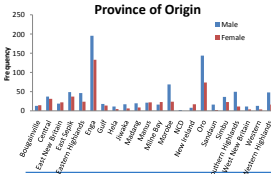
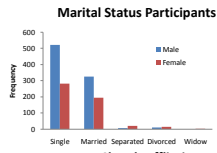
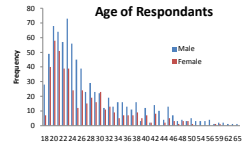
Data Collection

- 869 male & 520 female structured questionnaires
- 40 male & 16 female semi-structured individual interviews
- 36 male & 10 female Focus Group Discussions
- 309 male clinical examination by medical professional

Ethics approval by JCU, DWU, PAU and PNG National AIDS Council



Demographics of Participants



Types of Penile Cuts



Multiple types of penile cutting reported. Three broad classifications

Classification	Frequency & Number	Definition
No foreskin cut	43% (n= 369)	The prepuce has not been cut
Longitudinal foreskin cut	47% (n= 400)	Any form of longitudinal incision of the prepuce which does not remove the prepuce but exposes the glans
Circumferential foreskin cut	10% (n= 88)	Full removal of the prepuce with full exposure of glans



No cut

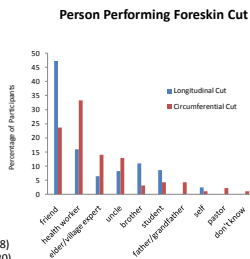
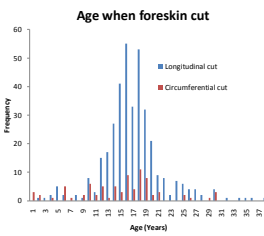


Longitudinal cut



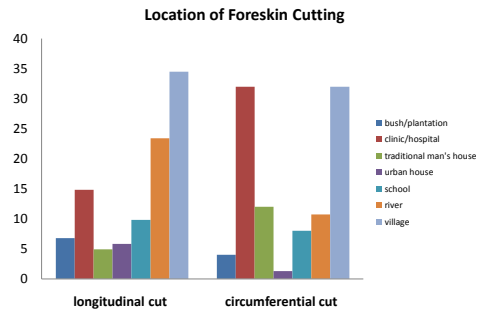
Circumferential cut

Age and Foreskin Cutter

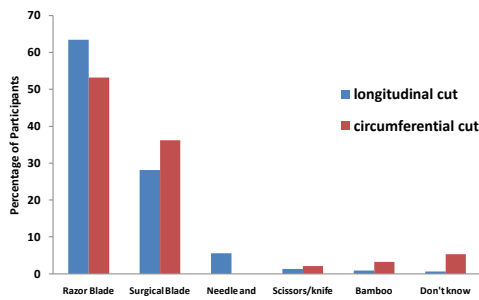


- Average age longitudinal cut 17.0 years (Range 2-38)
- Average age circumferential cut 14.8 years (Range 1-30)

Location of Foreskin Cutting



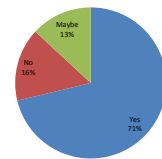
Tool Used to Cut Foreskin



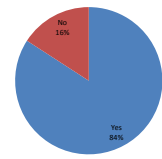
Remove foreskin if reduce risk of HIV



No Penile Cut: Remove if Reduce Risk of HIV



Already Split: Complete Removal if Reduce Risk of HIV



Reasons for Penile Cutting



- Cultural
- Health
- Sexual
- Biblical
- Peer influence
- Partners influence
- Parents decision



Reason – Cultural



❖ Body Cleansing

taim yu katim skin b'long kok b'long yu, em kain olsem yu raosim blood nogut ia – blood we mama katim yu long en ia, yu raosim i go na niup'ia blood we i kam, em bai mekim olsem yu bai grow, or strong na muscel
 [translation] When you cut your foreskin, it is like you remove bad blood – your mother's blood from during childbirth, you will remove it and new blood will come, it will make you grow strong and muscular.

It was believed by the elderly persons that MC was done to remove mother's blood and prepare to change into manhood particularly preparing towards having basic human need of good and safe sex.

In my area the people, the youths tend to circumcise the other youths. When doing circumcision, they'll ask them when you were born, you formed from the blood which belongs to your mother like that and then if, when go for circumcision, it's a way which you will remove the dirt or dirty blood and after that you eat, you will grow well built when doing this.

Reason - Health



❖ Prevention of STI/HIV

To prevent or reduce risk of getting infected with STI
 To keep it clean so as to protect myself from STDs

❖ Personal Hygiene

To prevent odours/offensive smell
 To keep my penis clean and healthy at all times

Skin stap dirty ba pulap inside long skin so mi cuttim to keep my penis clean [translation] when there is foreskin it will collect dirt under the foreskin, so I cut it to keep my penis clean

❖ Strong and Healthy

Believing that it would become strong and healthy
 I want to become strong and healthy person

❖ Medical Reasons

I was told to remove due to health reasons (penis tighten by the foreskin)
 My mum told me that it was for health reason. I did not urinate well when I was small so they remove my foreskin which I am happy they did

Reason - Cultural



❖ Cultural Practice

Taim yu kam through long disp'la process em bai yu ken go attendim ol bikp'la bikp'la bung b'long ol bikman. Yu speak bai ol man respect; em man toktok ia, kain olsem.

[Translation] When you go through this process you can attend big gatherings with elders. When you speak, men will respect you and say, he is a man now – this kind of thing.

❖ Entering manhood

The initiating ceremony is practiced and noted in my area to be very important because it mould a male child into adulthood.

❖ Community acceptance

if you no circumcised na yu marit, bai ol man mekim funny long yu, bai yu nonap pilim gutp'la long kam aot na raon.

[translation] if you are not circumcised and you are married, then men will make fun of you, and you will not feel comfortable to walk around in public

❖ Spiritual Beliefs

Male circumcision is culturally practiced in Morobe Province at the age of 16 years. Going through the initiation ceremony the young person receives supernatural power from the elders.

Reason – Sexual



❖ Obtain good sexual pleasure

For sexual pleasure to obtain good pleasure of having sex

❖ Prolong Ejaculation

Sex save longpla na sweet na man ino save kapsait hariap. [translation] Sex is for longer and sweeter and man does not ejaculate quickly

To prolong ejaculation that will satisfy me and my partner too which they express they are happy when having sex with me

❖ Sexual satisfaction to partner

Blo givim mare feelings la meri. Meri too bai singout. [translation] To give better satisfaction to women. Women will yell [with excitement].

*Just to give pleasure to women in order that they won't forget me

❖ For Erection

You can koop 2 or 3 raon [translation] you can have sex 2 or 3 times
 Avoid weakness of the erect penis while having sex

❖ Penile Enlargement

Taim yu katim skin nau stik blong yu bai olsem, bai yu rausim olpela blood na olsem stik blong yu bai bikpela. [translation] when you cut the foreskin from your penis you will remove the old blood and your penis will become big.

Taim yu katim stik blong yu bai em kamap bikpela na yu ken silip wantaim ol bikpela meri [translation] When you cut your foreskin your penis will become big and you can have sex with older women.

Reason – Biblical



❖ Positive Views

God instructed that Jesus to be circumcised and because of that I did it as a believer

If Jesus can do it, He set an example so why not practising it

Bible encourages circumcision so why not practising MC as Christians

❖ Negative Views

Supos God em wokim man wantaim skin larim stap olsem

[translation] If God created man with foreskin then just leave it alone.

Noken bagarapim creation bilong God na katim skin nating nating

[translation] Don't spoil God's creation by cutting the foreskin unnecessarily.

Sexual Activity



❖ Men want more sexual activity

I heard from people that men who are circumcised easily get into sexual relationships, they feel sexually active at any time.

He will want to sleep with his wife all the time and if there is no family planning they are likely to produce many children that are un-plan.

❖ Men want sex with many women

I think it might encourage the husband to have more sexual partners thus might easily contract the disease.

Man will have uncontrollable penis because most of the time they will be erected and the sexual desire will be so high. This cause man to be unsatisfied with one woman and so will be looking for sexual partners/ places to satisfy them ever erecting penis.

Unsafe cutting, Pain and Healing



❖ Unsafe Cutting

Bleeding can occur if not cut well. For example, my cousin almost bled to death because his peers did not do a proper cut. He almost fainted because he lost a lot of blood. And we have to take him to the hospital.

❖ Pain and Healing

Taim ol katim pikinini mi no save wanbel bikas em pikinini tumas nae em bai pilim planti pain. [translation] when they are doing circumcision on children, I do not like it because he is too young and the child will feel a lot of pain.

Having a round cut is massive, and negative change is that it would take a long time to heal. Thus meaning that we won't have sex for a long period of time.



Changes to penis



❖ Changes from circumcision/cutting

Sometimes I feel that his penis are growing into an extra ordinary thing and I don't enjoy having sex with him.

I think the penis would become smaller or decrease in size and the woman would not enjoy sex as she would.



Family and Culture



Domestic Violence and Family Problems

Em bai laik slip wantaim meri bilong em olgeta taim, everyday em bai no nap rest, even though meri pilim les. still em bai go out na painim narapela na causim femli problem. Sampla taim em ken forcim na patim you bicos em no nap kontrolim sense blo em.

[translation] He will want to have sex with his wife all the time, he will not rest from having sex every day, even though the wife is tired, he will still look for other women which brings family problem. Sometimes he can force and beat you because he could not control himself.

Culture

Circumcision is not common in other parts of PNG and women may not accept it in the beginning but educating and making awareness of the positive results can change all that.



Summary



- There is a great diversity of foreskin cutting and 'Male Circumcision' practices in Papua New Guinea reflecting the diversity of the country
- Most foreskin cutting in Papua New Guinea are longitudinal cuts performed during teenage years or early adulthood by a friend or family member
- There are a wide range of social, cultural and religious reasons for foreskin cutting in Papua New Guinea
- There was a wide variety and sometimes conflicting responses by women.
- Many women highlighted the health benefits and increased sexual pleasure if men are circumcised.
- Key negative responses included: men desiring more sex, unsafe circumcision practices, physical and emotional pain for women and negative change to expectations of women as sexual partners.
- Any potential male circumcision for HIV Prevention programs in Papua New Guinea need to take into account this wide range of traditional and contemporary penile cutting practices, the reasons these cuts are being done and perspectives from women.

Acknowledgements



- Provincial and Regional Student Leaders and Village/Community leaders from the 4 study site
- Study participants
- Pacific Adventist University
- Divine Word University
- James Cook University
- Porgera Joint Venture
- Higturu Oil Palms
- NDOH/ADB HIV Prevention in Rural Enclaves Project
- PNGIMR with University of Queensland and UNSW MC study team
- PNG National AIDS Council/ PAC 4 sites
- National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia

