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Circumcision in Adults: Effect on Sexual Function

TO THE EDITOR:

Senkul *et al.*¹ reported no adverse effect of male circumcision upon male sexual response. Our survey of the empirical literature reached a different conclusion.² We documented substantial adverse sexual effects of male circumcision, including significantly reduced penile sensitivity and significantly increased ejaculatory problems.³ As compared with genitally intact men, circumcised men reported significantly elevated levels of negative feelings and emotions related to being circumcised.³ Circumcised men also expressed significantly greater dissatisfaction with their sex lives than did genitally intact men.³

In addition, since heterosexual intercourse requires a female partner, Senkul *et al.*¹ have only considered one-half of the equation. There are significant adverse effects of male circumcision upon female sexual satisfaction.⁴ Surveys have found that women tend to experience vaginal dryness similar to female arousal disorder significantly more often when the male partner is circumcised.³⁻⁵ Women with a genitally intact male partner were significantly more likely to experience orgasm than women whose partner was circumcised.⁵

Clearly, Senkul's findings in Turkey should not be extrapolated to Western nations where there is documented empirical evidence of sexual and psychological harm resulting from male circumcision.

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