What Is Your Foreskin IQ?

Circle the correct letter and find out how much you know about the male foreskin:

1. The surface area of a normal adult foreskin is:
   a. 2 square inches (13 cm²)—about the size of a silver dollar.
   b. 5 square inches (32 cm²)—about the size of a matchbook cover.
   c. 10 square inches (64 cm²)—about the size of a common Post-it note.
   d. 15 square inches (95 cm²)—about the size of an index card.

2. The most sensitive portion of the penis is the:
   a. glans.
   b. corpus dictum.
   c. C-spot.
   d. frenulum/ridged band.
   e. foreskin “lips” (distal prepuce).

3. The foreskin serves to:
   a. provide sexual pleasure.
   b. provide the skin necessary to accommodate a full erection.
   c. cover and protect the urinary opening.
   d. none of the above
   e. a, b, and c

4. The average age when a boy’s foreskin is fully retractable is:
   a. birth.
   b. 6 months.
   c. 1 year.
   d. 5 years.
   e. 10 years.

5. Circumcision became popular in the early part of the last century to prevent:
   a. masturbation.
   b. epilepsy.
   c. insanity.
   d. paralysis.
   e. all of the above

6. Circumcision has been proven to cost-effectively prevent:
   a. cervical cancer.
   b. penile cancer.
   c. bladder infection.
   d. HIV/AIDS.
   e. all of the above
   f. none of the above

7. On average, a circumcised penis is:
   a. the same length as an intact penis.
   b. longer than an intact penis by 1/3” (8 mm).
   c. shorter than an intact penis by 1/3” (8 mm).

8. Infant circumcision is:
   a. medically recommended.
   b. safe and painless.
   c. proven to protect against many medical conditions.
   d. all of the above
   e. none of the above

9. Circumcised men have:
   a. the same sexual sensitivity as intact men.
   b. 25% greater sexual sensitivity than intact men.
   c. 75% less sexual sensitivity than intact men.

10. Match the percentage of boys being circumcised at birth with their country:
    ___ about 60% a. Britain
    ___ about 10% b. United States
    ___ about 1% c. Canada

11. The number of US adolescent boys mistaken about, or not knowing, their circumcision status is:
    a. none.
    b. 10%.
    c. 20%.
    d. 30%.

12. Jewish ritual circumcision (bris or brit milah):
    a. is mandated by Genesis 17, with the procedure remaining unchanged to the present time.
    b. is required to establish a male’s Jewish identity.
    c. when substituted with a hospital surgical circumcision, meets the requirements of Jewish law.
    d. all of the above
    e. none of the above

Scoring Instructions
Circle each correct answer (see reverse side), noting that you can get as many as 3 points for #10, and add up the total. Then compute your FIQ below.

_____ (total points) x 10 = ______ Foreskin IQ

Online version at: www.doiop.com/ForeskinIQ
For more information see: NOCIRC.org or ICGI.org
Answers: The last choice is correct for all but #10, which is: b, c, a.

Notes:
1. d is correct. 15 square inches (95 cm²) is the average size of the adult human’s foreskin.¹
2. e is correct. a. The glans, with its associated sulcus (groove) and scar of the frenulum, are the most sensitive locations of the circumcised penis, but relatively insensitive compared to the foreskin.² b. Corpus dictum is a bad pun submitted by a colleague. c. The C-spot refers to the female clitoris. d. Until recently, the frenulum and associated ridged band were believed to be the most sensitive portions of the foreskin but were recently proved not to be so.⁵ e. A recent study (the first of its kind—see chart below) revealed the foreskin “lips” or distal prepuce to be the most sensitive components.³
3. e is correct. All of these functions are provided by the foreskin and adversely affected by its loss.
4. e is correct. The foreskin of most infants is non-retractable at birth, which is normal; 6.5 percent of boys have a retractable foreskin by age 3–4 years.⁷ The average age of first, natural foreskin retraction is 10.4 years⁸ and most males will have a retractable foreskin by adulthood, but even then, 1–2 percent will never have a retractable foreskin and this is usually not problematic.⁵
5. e is correct. Previous unscientific claims eventually were exposed as false.⁶
6. f is correct. a. Cervical cancer, once thought to be lower in the partners of circumcised men, was later proven to be false.⁷ b. Studies have shown that the presence of a normal intact foreskin is not a risk factor for penile cancer.⁴ c. While there may be some partial medical benefits for certain boys in reduced bladder infection rates during their first year after birth, the findings are inconclusive because none of the studies controlled for forced retraction of the foreskin, which undermines its naturally protective function, and may well be the source of slightly increased infection rates—though no higher than in infant girls. d. Poorly-interpreted African trials have led to an unfounded rush to recommend circumcision—when in fact other studies show that circumcision in Africa is often the cause of HIV transmission.⁹ Circumcision has not been shown to be either cost-effective¹⁰ or worth the loss of later sexual functioning;¹¹ and if forced upon a male, is a human rights violation.
7. c is correct. In a study on condom sizes, it was discovered that intact penises are on the whole, about 1/3-inch longer.¹¹
8. e is correct. a. No medical organization in the world recommends routine circumcision. b. Circumcision is extremely painful and anesthesia is only partially effective—newborns are proven to be more sensitive to pain than adults.¹²,¹³ c. While there may be some partial medical benefits, none have been shown to be cost effective¹⁴ or worth the loss of later sexual functioning.¹²
9. c is correct. The fine-touch sensitivity of a circumcised penis is approximately 1/4th that of an intact penis.²
10. b, e, and a are the correct sequence. The US infant circumcision rate is the highest in the English-speaking (or European) world at about 57%.¹⁵ Canada’s rate is about 9%-¹⁶ and Britain’s rate has been under 1% for decades.¹⁷
11. d is correct. In a study of over 1500 adolescent boys, about 90% of those who believed they knew their circumcision status were correct, but an additional 23% of circumcised, and 31% of intact boys, did not know their status, making a total of over 30% who were incorrect.¹⁸
12. e is correct. a. While mandated in Genesis 17, Jewish circumcision underwent radical changes during Roman times, when greater amounts of foreskin were removed—virtually unrecognizable from the original “nick” or drawing of blood.¹⁹ b. Jewish identity is determined by the mother’s heritage, not circumcision status. Circumcision is not practiced by all Jews and is being questioned by some progressive followers of Judaism.²⁰ c. Hospital circumcision does not meet the ritual criteria of a bris.¹⁹

20. Jewish Circumcision Resource Center: www.jewishcircumcision.org

© 2008, John W. Travis, MD, MPH, Wellness Associates <TheWellspring.com>,<info@TheWellspring.com> v. 2.1 Permission to reproduce granted for non-commercial use—with full attribution. Download latest pdf: <doi.com/FIQ>