

# ■ NOCIRC OF MICHIGAN ■

# INFORMANT

PREVENTING INFANT CIRCUMCISION — FOR THE WELL-BEING OF ALL

VOLUME 4 — NUMBER 1 — SEPTEMBER 1999

## *Now Restore Yourself On-line!*

## Circumcised? You Lost. Restoring? You Win!

**NOCIRC of Michigan** is proud to announce the exciting debut of a new foreskin restoration kit for purchase on-line at [www.RestoreYourself.com](http://www.RestoreYourself.com).

The *Restore Yourself!* kit is safe, painless and inexpensive. Men who begin the restoration process report an increase in the sexual sensitivity of their glans in 30 days. Using the kit is simple and takes only a few minutes a day.

Foreskin restoration grows new skin to cover the glans and provides the gliding motion of a natural penis. It will compensate for some of the damage caused by circumcision.

The *Restore Yourself!* kit is available *now*, and by October 15th you may purchase it on-line, confidentially and securely, using your VISA or MasterCard. It is produced and marketed worldwide exclusively by **NOCIRC of Michigan**.

Skin grows in response to the application of continuous tension. Skin expansion techniques using continuous tension have been applied for years for victims of various illnesses and injuries.

*It is important to understand and accept that the functions lost to circumcision can never fully be restored.* However, if you or the one you love miss the natural functions of a foreskin, then the *Restore Yourself!* kit can help.

The *Restore Yourself!* foreskin restoration process uses the popular "T-Tape Technique" and comes complete with all of the materials needed to start restoring, including an excellent, illustrated instruction guide.

Thousands of men have successfully grown a sheath of skin that closely resembles the foreskin which nature intended them to have. They report an increase in stimulation during sexual activity. They say that their glans finally has a "home" to live in. It takes a lot of patience and persistence because an optimal restoration might take 3 years.

Visit the *Restore Yourself!* web site today at [www.RestoreYourself.com](http://www.RestoreYourself.com) or send a check for **\$24.95 plus \$3.00** for shipping, payable to: **NOCIRC of Michigan**, PO Box 333, Birmingham, MI 48012 or call (248) 642-5703.

### *30-Day Money-Back Guarantee!*

As our valued customer, your privacy is always absolutely assured.

*Profits from the sale of this kit are spent entirely on advertising and promoting foreskin restoration.*

### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The practice of infant circumcision is often defended as a family's personal choice. This is a somewhat paradoxical argument, since the baby, as a new member of the family, has no choice at all in the matter. For him, circumcision is indeed personal, but it is definitely not a choice. For the family, on the other hand, it is anything but personal. The family is cajoled, compelled, and coerced by their American culture, their relatives, their tradition, their doctor, their hospital, their ignorance, their denial, and their fear into the repetition of this misguided deed from the past.

Yes, circumcision should be a personal choice. Then, no infant would choose it, no boy would ask for it, no man would stand for it, and no human being would perform it.

*On behalf of all the children, thanks!* *Norm Cohen, Director*

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MISSION STATEMENT  
**NOCIRC OF  
MICHIGAN**

**NOCIRC of Michigan** is a consumer rights advocacy group helping parents understand that circumcision is harmful to their children.

We educate mothers, fathers and health care providers in Michigan about the harm of circumcision and about proper intact care. We protect consumers from fraudulent medical claims. We actively promote the benefits of normal genitalia.

We know the removal of normal, healthy tissue from a child's genitals—in the name of medicine, religion or social custom—results in a loss of sexual function and is a violation of human rights.

We are a non-profit group consisting of consumer activists and health care professionals. We are committed to effective education, advocacy and activism on behalf of children to protect them from harm. We are part of a worldwide organization dedicated to ending all forms of male and female genital mutilation.

*The Informant* (ISSN 1092-020X) is published three times a year by **NOCIRC of Michigan**. It represents our commitment to provide educational information in this state and to activists everywhere. Articles, comments, and questions are welcome.

**NOCIRC of Michigan**  
*Educating a New Generation*

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ANOTHER HAPPY BOY  
**To Cut or  
Not to Cut?**

by *Kris Collins*

**O**ur decision to not circumcise our son, Carter, came after a series of both fortunate and unfortunate experiences. In 1993 I lost a pregnancy early in the fourth month. My husband, Dave, and I were heartbroken. Our first attempt at starting a family was suddenly over.

During that pregnancy I recall receiving a pre-admission form for the hospital through my OB/GYN. It had several questions which seemed typical for a hospital. One of the questions was "if a boy, do you wish to circumcise?"

I checked the "yes" box. I didn't even think about it. Later, I asked my husband if he was circumcised, and he said that yes he was. That's right—I wasn't even aware of what a circumcision meant exactly. My only understanding of it at the time was that it was a necessary thing for males, and that it was unusual for a man not to be circumcised. So that was the extent of my thought on the subject.

After my miscarriage, and over the course of the following year, I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with some new folks. One in particular, a young woman who had a daughter. Over time we had several discussions about many different topics, one of which was routine infant circumcision.

I soon began to realize that I didn't know very much about male anatomy. I also began to feel a much deeper respect for basic human rights. After more discussions with my husband, we mutually decided that if we ever had a baby boy, we would definitely not have him circumcised.

On November 17, 1995, after a problem-free pregnancy and a non-medicated birth, our beautiful, healthy baby boy was born. We named him Carter, and to us, of course, he was the most perfect creature alive! The next morning a nurse asked me, "Well then, will we be circumcising Carter today?"

Carter Collins

I was a bit surprised by the question in the first place, since it was clearly stated on our birth plan that there would be no such thing done to our child. I proudly responded, "Absolutely not." I've never once doubted our decision.

I'm so grateful that we were offered insight to the procedure of male circumcision. Obstetricians don't give much of an opinion on the issue, and there isn't much public information available. I've discovered that where my children are concerned, it's my duty to question anything that is offered up as simply "routine," and it's also my responsibility to weigh out risks and benefits with anything that intervenes with the natural course of human development. After all, I am my children's strongest advocate.

I also realize that, like my friend, I am able to provide others with valuable information regarding circumcision. I'm sure it's rare that someone would do something to intentionally harm their child, but speaking from personal experience, I know that I feel much more empowered and confident as a parent when I make well informed choices on behalf of my children. It's my job to protect my children until they are able to do so themselves. And I feel that I owe them at least that much.

*Kris Collins is a mother of two and lives in Sterling Heights, Michigan. You can e-mail her at [bongoboy@flash.net](mailto:bongoboy@flash.net).*

## The Michigan Foreskin-Friendly Project

In July, **NOCIRC of Michigan** launched a landmark direct-marketing campaign to doctors in metropolitan Detroit to locate “foreskin-friendly” physicians and to cultivate their support. This direct mailing included a survey and an offer for free **NOCIRC** pamphlets in bulk for distribution to parents.

The offer was mailed to 622 obstetricians/gynecologists and 482 pediatricians in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

6% of these physicians requested free pamphlets for distribution to parents, which is an impressive response to a direct mailing. This demonstrates the success of this practical marketing campaign. **NOCIRC of Michigan** is looking for funding from interested donors for a much larger, state-wide campaign.

Bulk pamphlets and medical article reprints were shipped to the physicians who had requested them in the survey. A

total of 7,000 pamphlets was shipped to local physicians for handing out to new parents.

This survey also created an awareness of **NOCIRC of Michigan** as a resource for information among local physicians, offering critical information about circumcision and the proper care of the intact penis.

7.5% of the physicians responded to the survey, to date. Here are some results:

**43% of the physicians who responded indicated that if they had their own newborn son today, they would *not* have him circumcised.**

**7% of the respondents expressed strong anti-circumcision views, indicating that they recommend to parents not to circumcise their son.**

**Only 15% of the respondents knew that a boy’s foreskin might not be normally retractable until age 18.**

**36% of the respondents cited a lack of pamphlets or handouts as an obstacle in discussing circumcision with parents. 77% requested **NOCIRC’s** free informational pamphlets for distribution to parents.**

From the survey, it is evident that physicians in metropolitan Detroit hold a wide-range of views on circumcision, both pro and con. Here are two good examples from their written comments:

*“Colic, wet diapers, and hunger elicit cries from boys just like circumcision.”*—an obstetrician in Rochester, MI

*“I have never believed in circumcision and have always informed patients about my feelings.”*—an obstetrician in Bloomfield Hills, MI

### CLASSIFIED AD

## Help Wanted

**NOCIRC of Michigan** is looking for an Office Manager for its Birmingham office, 14 to 20 hours per week. This paid position requires the following:

- ◆ Microsoft Office experience
- ◆ excellent writing skills
- ◆ good public relations skills
- ◆ ability to work independently
- ◆ a desire to change the world
- ◆ *chutzpah!*

Please call (248) 642-5703 for more info.

### FIRST PERSON

## Fighting for Freedom in Europe

by *Wilkie J. Murray*

By way of introduction, I am a continuing, very enthusiastic participant in the effort against routine circumcision of newborn males.

My parents were knowing enough to resist the “Lemming Syndrome” and keep their family, comprised of myself and a two and a half year younger brother, intact after birth, in contrast to all known friend and neighbor families.

My first dramatic awareness of my status was in 1943. As a 25-year-old 2nd lieutenant in the US Army Ordnance Corps, I arrived in Greenoch-On-Clyde after a three and a half day crossing from New York via the Queen Elizabeth I troopship. Then, we took an express rail

to the G-22 Depot near Hereford, England.

In the mess hall, I was served a full dinner that I couldn’t finish. However, I was advised, “You took it—eat it.”

“Ok,” I said, “but you’ll wish I hadn’t.”

Ten minutes later I had bad abdominal pain. “Get a doctor here—*fast!*”

The doctor confirmed that my appendix was ready to rupture. The Army ambulance took an hour and a half to get me to the US General Hospital in Kiddeminstor. A US Army Medical Corps Captain checked his hurting patient with a 104 degree fever.

“We need to get you into surgery before that appendix cuts loose,” he says. “I should circumcise you at the same time—OK?”

“No—I’ll pass on that for now,” I said.

“Maybe I’ll give you a freebie on the circumcision.”

“You have just crossed the line of departure *twice*. Now I will cross it *once*. Acknowledge *now, loudly*, that you are ‘out of order,’ and retract your offers. Otherwise, when I reach a count of THREE, I start tearing parts (like ears, etc.) off you and throwing them in your face. ONE . . . TWO . . .”

“HOLD IT—I hear you,” he said.

In surgery, I ordered a local, spinal anesthetic so as to be able to observe the entire scene—“dry heaving” all the way!

At eight am, Elizabeth, the ward nurse, threw back the covers and checked my surgery incision. Then, she retracted my foreskin. “I see you didn’t go for his ‘cut’ bulls\*\*t. He’s a sadist, and that’s how he gets his kicks.” I told her of my offer to supply his ‘kicks.’

“Murray, you are a pisser,” she said.

*Wilkie J. Murray is 80 years old and lives in Davisburg, Michigan.*

# Motor City Cycles

by William Francis Taylor © 1999

In an engine with internal combustion  
a metal piston, a solid cylinder, glides within a rigid sheath  
back and forth or up and down, and  
converts explosive energy into rhythmic motion.  
While metal piston flees down and forth in front of fire  
and pushes neighbors up and back,  
its rings of steel (hot-rimmed with oil) hug it – tight –  
and trap the flaming oxygen at hotter end of hollow sheath. Elegant.

In an evening of connubial relation  
a manly piston, a spongy cylinder, slides within a tender sheath  
back and forth or up and down, and  
converts rhythmic motion into explosive energy.  
While manly piston glides down and forth in festive fire  
and pushes neighbor up and back,  
its folds of skin (hot-rimmed with nerves) hug it – loose –  
and trap her natural lubricant at deeper end of tender sheath. Elegant.

But a human piston without such skin (AKA “circumcised”)  
acts just the other way –  
instead of trapping honest lubricant within –  
it draws that fluid out  
like bucket draws water from a well –  
and thus the tender sheath dries out.

(My manly friends, it is not friction  
but touch and presence that  
a tender sheath adores.)  
And sometimes two explode with love.  
And sometimes two explode with love.

Out upon these lapping waves, Detroit  
I cast four final leaves of love:  
Daddy, let your baby keep his biopiston rings –  
Mommy, let your newborn keep his loveskin –  
with love leave boy his manly gift –  
that of an eve, he his mate may manly love.

*William Francis Taylor is a husband, father, homemaker  
and poet who lives in Detroit, (313) 531-8495.*

## CALENDAR

### Exhibit Dates

Volunteers are needed to help staff the NOCIRC information booths at the exhibitions listed below. Come and enjoy sharing our message with others! Please call (248) 642-5703 to volunteer.

◆ **Sunday, September 19th, 1999**

*Baby's-To-Be Show*  
Northfield Hilton  
Troy, MI  
11:30 am to 4:00 pm

◆ **Saturday, October 2nd, 1999**

*Vaccine Information Conference*  
Livonia Holiday Inn  
Livonia, MI  
11:30 am to 3:30 pm

## WEB WATCH

[www.norm.org](http://www.norm.org)

**The National Organization of Restoring Men (NORM)** is dedicated to providing an arena in which circumcised men can share their concerns without fear of being ridiculed for a desire to be intact and whole again. It provides a forum to discuss goals and learn about methods and techniques of foreskin restoration and to discover those methods that will work best for each individual.

Their web site has many links to other foreskin restoration sites. You can order the popular book, *The Joy of Uncircumcising!*, by Jim Bigelow, Ph.D.

Statements made about foreskin restoration have not been evaluated by the US Food and Drug Administration. Foreskin restoration is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. Foreskin restoration is not a cure for any medical disease or sexual dysfunction, such as impotence or premature ejaculation. It is not medical treatment.

If you have any medical condition, symptom or dysfunction affecting or related to your genitals, or if you have any health questions or concerns, first consult a competent and caring doctor.

**DO NOT RESTORE IF:** You are prone to abnormal bleeding; have a blood clotting disorder; have problems related to blood circulation; suffer from any peripheral vascular or nerve disease; have diabetes; have Peyronie's disease; are a "keloid former."

## BAD IDEAS FROM THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

### Real Quotes from Real Doctors

*“Hip trouble is from falling down, an accident that children with tight foreskins are especially liable to, owing to the weakening of the muscles produced by the condition of the genitals.”*

Dr. Lewis L. Sayer, M.D.,  
“Circumcision for the Cure of Enuresis” [bed-wetting]  
*Journal of the American Medical Association*  
1887, vol. 7, p. 631-633

## TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT CIRCUMCISION

### Become An Informant

A tax-deductible membership fee of \$25 or more makes you a NOCIRC of Michigan **Informant**. Help us to educate parents!

**PO Box 333, Birmingham, MI 48012**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

PHONE: