

Information about Intact America and its Petition to the AAP

Intact America is holding a press conference to announce that it has collected more than 10,000 signatures demanding that the American Academy of Pediatrics tell its members to stop circumcising boys. Here are several pertinent facts that Intact America won't reveal to you.

ABOUT THE PETITION

- Intact America initiated its petition drive back in February. At the time Intact America stated that its goal was to deliver 29,000 signatures to the AAP on February 29.
- On February 29, 2016, Intact America admitted that it had just 6,100 signatures and extended the deadline indefinitely. Although the group has posted at least 17 separate appeals on Facebook, barely 20% of its 49,000 Facebook followers have bothered to sign.
- An estimated 1.2 million newborn boys are circumcised prior to hospital discharge in the U.S. each year. This figure doesn't include tens of thousands of infants who are snipped during follow-up pediatric visits, nor the boys circumcised in religious ceremonies.
- The signature total is significantly less than one percent of the number of American parents who choose circumcision for their newborn sons each year. Intact America reached just one-third of their original goal nearly eight months after their original deadline.

ABOUT INTACT AMERICA

- Executive Director Georganne Chapin delivered a speech at the 2014 Genital Autonomy Symposium in Boulder, Colorado, describing circumcision as "criminal assault" and "fundamentally evil." Chapin warned that parents who persist in choosing circumcision must be called to account. She advised the conference participants not to bow to political correctness, telling them to overlook the disturbing behavior of anti-circumcision extremists. In other words, fanatics vilify and intimidate doctors and parents, and those actions produce results. The end justifies the means.

"The enemy is not an intactivist who might step outside our personal comfort zones. If we think this way, we will cannibalize ourselves, rather than keeping the focus on the real enemy... The enemy is any person of any religion, culture, race or gender who circumcises a child. We need to stop questioning the motives of those whose aim it is to make all circumcisers feel bad, so they stop circumcising."

gaamerica.org/symposia/thirteenth/Chapin,%20Georganne.docx

- Intact America has awarded its "Intactivist of the Month" honor to several of the bullies. One of the most notorious is Brother K, who was honored in April 2014. One year earlier this man drove 900 miles from Sacramento to Spokane, Wash. in order to confront a nurse over a post on her Facebook page. He routinely threatens to expose and shame parents, doctors, nurses, and doulas. He has described circumcision as "an intimate sexual encounter between an adult and a baby" and equates the procedure to "cutting off your son's tongue or poking out one of his eyes."
- Over the past couple of years Intact America has intervened in a parental legal dispute (Nebus v Hironimus) that received international attention. When the mother who opposes circumcision lost in court, she kidnapped her son and hid in a shelter for battered women. Intact America posted daily updates in support of the parent's illegal actions. Three months later law enforcement authorities located and arrested the mother, and she lost custody of her son. Trying to stop the procedure, Intact America sent more than 12,000 letters to doctors throughout Florida and around the U.S. These desperate attempts to thwart a legally binding decision were all in vain, as the boy was reportedly circumcised shortly afterward.

Information about Circumcision

ABOUT NEWBORN ELECTIVE CIRCUMCISION

- Statements by international medical associations reflect the AAP's position in support of parental choice.
 - The World Health Organization (WHO) agrees: "There are significant benefits in performing male circumcision in early infancy" while "complications are minor and rare, occurring in 1 of every 250 to 500 cases. Most of the complications can be easily and rapidly addressed."
"Manual for early infant male circumcision under local anaesthesia" – World Health Organization, 2010
 - The Canadian Paediatric Society reports: "Current evidence indicates that there are potential health benefits associated with male circumcision."
<http://www.cps.ca/documents/position/circumcision>
 - The Royal Australasian College of Physicians agrees that "it is reasonable for parents to weigh the benefits and risks of circumcision and to make the decision whether or not to circumcise their sons." The RACP concludes, "Parental choice should be respected."
<https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/circumcision-of-infant-males.pdf>
- The Intact America petition says that circumcision causes pain that is unmanageable and harmful. Yet several studies have shown that use of anesthesia can effectively reduce and manage the pain an infant would experience. The AAP recommends that infants should be provided adequate anesthesia whenever circumcision is performed.
"Behavioral effects of circumcision with and without anesthesia" - Dixon, 1984
"Pain relief for neonatal circumcision" - Brady-Fryer B et al, 2004
"Pain and Your Infant: Medical Procedures, Circumcision and Teething" – University of Michigan, 2007
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/130/3/e756.abstract>
- In alignment with the AAP policy statement, the WHO reports that benefits of infant circumcision include: lower risk of UTIs, prevention of phimosis and paraphimosis, prevention of balanitis and posthitis, lower risk of HIV, lower risk of other STDs, and lower risk of penile cancer. Female sexual partners have a lower risk of cervical cancer and decreased vaginal infections.
"Manual for early infant male circumcision under local anaesthesia" – World Health Organization, 2010
- Intact America may cite various studies in an attempt to argue that circumcision reduces sexual pleasure and is associated with erectile dysfunction, premature ejaculation, and several other sexual harms. Most of the studies are based on demographic samples not representative of the general American population. In many cases, the recruitment method introduced a self-selection bias. And studies of men circumcised as adults, often to treat a medical condition, cannot address the effects of newborn circumcision on a sexual performance or pleasure. Analyses of these studies are available at CircumcisionChoice.com or [Facebook.com/Groups/ElephantintheHospital](https://www.facebook.com/Groups/ElephantintheHospital).
- A 2015 survey of 1,000 American men found that 86% of circumcised men are satisfied with their penile status, while just 10% wish that they weren't circumcised. By comparison, 29% of uncircumcised men wish that they had been circumcised, while 67% are satisfied.
http://cdn.yougov.com/cumulus_uploads/document/ugf8jh0ufk/toplines_OPI_circumcision_20150202.pdf
- Newborn circumcision typically is covered by health insurance plans. For patients not covered, the cost may range from \$150-\$400. Insurance doesn't cover elective circumcision for adults, and the procedure typically costs from \$800-\$3,000 or more. With a prohibitive cost factor, it is misleading for opponents to say that all the men who wish that they were circumcised can simply have it done in adulthood.
<http://health.costhelper.com/circumcision.html>