

Values Clarification Activity on Circumcision

Objectives:

1. To explore personal thoughts and feelings about circumcision in general and about performing the procedure.
2. To think about how you might counsel or discuss the procedure with parents who are considering circumcision for their son.
3. To think about how your opinions about circumcision may influence how you interact with families that may have a different opinion about circumcision.

Ground Rules:

1. Make "I" statements – "I believe . . .," "I feel that. . ."
2. No such thing as a wrong answer
3. Everyone has the right to pass

Agree/Disagree Activity:

Place yourself on a spectrum from strongly agree to strongly disagree for each statement.

1. No one should have a circumcision unless requested
Strongly Agree _____ Strongly Disagree
2. Everyone should have a circumcision unless refused
Strongly Agree _____ Strongly Disagree
3. I will not perform circumcisions under any circumstance
Strongly Agree _____ Strongly Disagree
4. I will perform circumcisions for any patient
Strongly Agree _____ Strongly Disagree
5. Circumcision is a cosmetic procedure
Strongly Agree _____ Strongly Disagree
6. Circumcision is a ritual performed for cultural reasons
Strongly Agree _____ Strongly Disagree
7. Circumcision has significant health benefits
Strongly Agree _____ Strongly Disagree
8. The health benefits of circumcision outweigh the risks of the procedure
Strongly Agree _____ Strongly Disagree

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Cases:

For each case, answer the following questions:

Consider the parents' perspective. Why might the parents feel this way?

How do you feel as the provider?

What conversation would you have with the parents regarding their choice?

If you disagree with the parents, how can you maintain a therapeutic relationship?

- Parents bring their newborn in for circumcision. During the history you find out that they refused vitamin K because they thought it was unnecessary.
- A family tells you that for cultural reasons, they plan to have their newborn son circumcised at home as part of a religious ceremony.
- Parents tell you that they do not want to circumcise their son because they do not think there are any health benefits to the procedure.
- As you are consenting parents of a newborn for a circumcision procedure, they ask you whether he will feel any pain.