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What Parents Should Know Prior To Making Decisions About Circumcising Their Male Newborn- A Literature Review

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What We Learned

Many parents do not receive proper education regarding circumcision options prior to making a decision for their newborn. Factors that should be included in the teaching are the benefits, risks, adverse effects, cost effectiveness, and pain management. Currently, the United States uses a more expensive and invasive procedure than other countries around the world.

Background

The efficiency of circumcision in the United States can be directly related to:

- Cost
- Pain management
- Safety
- Education given to parents

Purpose & Aims

To determine:

- If circumcision in the US is established on evidenced-based practice regarding cost, safety, and client education.
- Whether parents are given enough knowledge to make an informed decision on circumcising their male newborns.

Sample

The population consists of male newborns and their parents. The sample is four research articles found on the CINAHL database at Francis Harvey Green Library on the West Chester University campus.

Methods

CINAHL database was used in order to obtain lists of research articles pertaining to the study. The search was further narrowed down through year parameters dated only back to 2009. Articles where full text was not available online were retrieved from Iliad through the West Chester University Library.

Results



- The statistics concerning mother's perception of newborn pain during circumcision reveal that healthcare providers are not providing enough information about pain management during the procedure.
- Not all parents are educated properly or entirely by healthcare providers prior to decision-making.
- The PrePex procedure used in Rwanda has been found to be more efficient in terms of speed and safety in comparison to the surgical method used in the United States.

Conclusions

The articles found that:

- United States' health professionals lack knowledge and practice regarding treatment options for male newborns.
- Parents do not have enough information to make a decision for their newborns circumcision.
- Parents felt uneducated and uncomfortable making decisions.
- nurses in the clinical setting need a better system of how to educate parents about circumcision.

Next Steps

- It is recommended that more nursing research should be conducted.
- Conduct trial of PrePex procedure in the United States.

Limitations

- Very few research articles related to the topic of circumcision
- Very few Nursing Journals had articles written about circumcision.

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