

## Questionnaire

Assessing the knowledge of male circumcision among pregnant women attending the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital Antenatal Clinic

### **Explanation of questionnaire structure:**

This questionnaire was designed using Google Forms. The first page of the questionnaire is the study information sheet for patients to read before signing the written consent form. Participants will need to select a tick box indicating that they have read the information sheet and signed the consent form before continuing to the questions. Each question will appear on a new page, with a page heading indicating the topic of the question in bold. Some questions are set so that if the participant answers “yes”, a follow-up questions will appear, whereas if they answer “no”, the follow-up questions won’t appear (these follow up questions are indicated in brackets in this document). The participants will be told that they should not go back to previous questions or take breaks and talk to other participants during the questionnaire to avoid changing answers after new information is learned. This, as well as the page breaks for each question are to prevent leading the participant in any way. This paragraph explaining the structure of the questionnaire is not included on the Google Form itself but has been included so that the structure of the Google Form is understood. The content of the questionnaire has been inserted below.

### **Study information sheet**

Study title: Assessing the knowledge of neonatal male circumcision among pregnant women attending Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital

Good day, we trust that you are well and appreciate your time. We are doing research about the knowledge mothers have about neonatal circumcision. We are inviting you to take part in our research study.

#### **What this study involves:**

If you agree to participate, you will need to fill out a questionnaire on a Google Form, using a device from one of the researchers. This questionnaire has 24 questions, and it will take around 10-15 minutes to complete. The questions are about knowledge of circumcision, including religious and cultural circumcisions, the benefits and risks of circumcision, the differences between circumcision done in neonates and adolescents, the laws surrounding circumcision and decision making about the procedure. Some of the questions may be of a sensitive nature. If you feel that the questions are triggering or upsetting, please feel free to stop the questionnaire and you may choose to continue at another time.

The questionnaire is written in English. If you do not understand English, please let one of the researchers know, and we will try to find someone to translate for you. If you do not understand something or if you have any questions, please feel free to ask the researcher at any point.

After completing the questionnaire, you will receive a pamphlet that has more information about circumcision.

Participation in this study is voluntary.

Please note that participation is voluntary. If you decide not to participate, there are no penalties or loss of benefits. You may stop participating at any time without penalty or loss of benefits and you do not need to provide a reason for withdrawing. If you stop participating, any questions you answered will not be included in the study.

Confidentiality:

Your answers to the questionnaire will be kept anonymous and the questionnaire does not ask for any identifying personal information.

The only time you give personal information is if you sign the consent form to participate in the study. This personal information will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be available to the researchers mentioned in the beginning of the study and their supervisor Dr Tarryn Gabler.

The only exceptions – which are very rare – are that:

1. Personal information may be disclosed if required by law.
2. The Human Research Ethics Committees of the University may require personal data to respond to a formal complaint, or for a compliance audit.

Benefits of being in the study:

By participating in this study, you will be contributing to the field of medical knowledge.

Risks of being involved in the study:

There are no anticipated risks of being in this study.

Filling in the questionnaire will not affect your place in the clinic line, your ability to see the doctor or the treatment that the doctor gives you or your child.

Contact details of researchers:

Olivia Mettler. Email: 2358833@students.wits.ac.za  
Isabelle Smuts. Email: 1860216@students.wits.ac.za  
Jesse von Mollendorff. Email: 2302740@students.wits.ac.za  
Faatimah Dollie. Email: 2164988@students.wits.ac.za  
Hunadi Malatji. Email: 2162918@students.wits.ac.za  
Leigh Mogable. Email: 2317192@students.wits.ac.za  
Preshanthi Naidoo. Email: 1781627@students.wits.ac.za  
Setsweke Phala. Email: 2345704@students.wits.ac.za

Research Supervisor:

Dr Tarryn Gabler.

Email: tarryn.gabler@gmail.com

Contact details of Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) administrator and chair:

This study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical) of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. A principal function of this Committee is to safeguard the rights and dignity of all human subjects who agree to participate in a research project and the integrity of the research. If you have any concern over the way the study is being

conducted, please contact the Chairperson of this Committee who is Dr Clement Penny, who may be contacted on telephone number 011 717 2301, or by e-mail on Clement.Penny@wits.ac.za. The telephone numbers for the Committee secretariat are 011 717 2700/1234 and the e-mail addresses are Zanele.Ndlovu@wits.ac.za and Rhulani.Mukansi@wits.ac.za

Thank you for reading this Study Information Sheet.

If you would like to participate in this study, please sign the consent form before proceeding with the questionnaire.

I have read the participant information sheet and signed the consent form.

1. Do you know any religions in South Africa that practice religious circumcision? (Please choose one option)

Yes  
 No

2. Which religion(s) are you aware of that routinely practice circumcision? (You may choose more than one option)

(If the answer to question 1 was “no”, this question will not be asked)

Christian  
 Hinduism  
 Islam  
 Judaism  
 Traditional African Religions  
 No religion  
 I don't know  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. When do religious circumcisions usually get done? (Please choose one option)

(If the answer to question 1 was “no”, this question will not be asked)

I don't know  
 Before 1 month of age  
 Between 1 month and 12 years old  
 12 - 16 years  
 Older than 16 years

4. Do you know any cultures in South Africa that practice cultural circumcision? (Please choose one option)

Yes  
 No

5. Which of the following perform cultural circumcisions? (You may choose more than one option)

(If the answer to question 4 was “no”, this question will not be asked)

- Afrikaans
- Coloured
- English
- Hindu
- Muslim
- Ndebele
- Pedi
- Sotho
- Swazi
- Tsonga
- Tswana
- Venda
- Xhosa
- Zulu
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. At what age do cultural circumcisions usually get done? (Please choose one option)

(If the answer to question 4 was “no”, this question will not be asked)

- Before 1 month of age
- Between 1 month and 12 years old
- 12 years and older
- 16 years and older

7. Who should perform the circumcision? (Please choose one option)

(If the answer to question 4 was “no”, this question will not be asked)

- Family or community member
- Medical doctor/ Healthcare professional
- Religious person trained to do circumcisions
- Traditional circumcision practitioner

8. What does a circumcision cost? (Please choose one option)

- I don't know
- Free
- Less than R500
- R500-1500
- More than R1500

9. Have you heard about voluntary medical male circumcision? (Please choose one option)

- Yes
- No

10. Do you know of places that do free voluntary medical male circumcision? (Please choose one option)

(If the answer to question 9 was “no”, this question will not be asked)

- Yes
- No

11. From what age can voluntary medical male circumcision be performed on your son? (Please choose one option)

- I don't know
- Less than 12 years old
- 12 years and older
- 16 years and older

12. Who should decide if your son needs circumcision? (You may choose more than one option)

- A community leader
- A healthcare professional
- A parent/guardian
- A religious leader
- It should be a joint decision by my son and any of the people above
- Your son

13. Should circumcision wait to be done until your son can decide for himself if he wants it done or not? (Please choose one option)

- I don't know
- No
- Yes

14. At what age (in years) is a child able to decide if they want a circumcision? (Please choose from the dropdown list)

\_\_\_ years

15. It is better to tell a child that they are going to have a circumcision. (Please choose one option)

- I don't know
- False
- True

16. There are laws in South Africa that govern circumcision. (Please choose one option)

- I don't know
- False
- True

17. Circumcision is illegal (not allowed by law) in SA if a child is younger than 16 and has no religious or medical reason for circumcision. (Please choose one option)

- I don't know
- False
- True

18. It is illegal (not allowed by law) to circumcise children under 12 years old for cultural reasons. (Please choose one option)

- I don't know
- False
- True

19. Children 12 years and older must understand what a circumcision is. They must understand the good and bad reasons for circumcisions. They must agree (assent) to have the circumcision done. This must happen otherwise it is illegal. (Please choose one option)

- I don't know
- False
- True

20. Why is it good to have a circumcision? (You may choose more than one option)

- I don't know
- Lower the chance of cancer and infections in female partners
- Lower the chance of cancer of the penis
- Lower the chance of emergency swelling of the penis (paraphimosis)
- Lower the chance of HIV infection
- Lower the chance of infection of the penis
- Lower the chance of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Lower the chance of tight foreskin ring (phimosis)
- Lower the chance of urinary infection
- None of the above

21. What can go wrong when you have a circumcision? (You may choose more than one option)

- I don't know
- Allergic reaction to medication/anaesthetic
- Bleeding
- Infection
- Injury of penis
- Pain
- Poor cosmetic outcome (bad physical appearance)
- Redness of the opening of the penis
- Scarring of the urine opening
- None of the above

22. Is it safe to perform circumcision in a baby less than 1 month old? (Please choose one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

23. When are there less bad outcomes when getting a circumcision? (Please choose one option)

- Circumcision performed less than 1 month
- Circumcision performed between 1 month and 12 years
- Circumcision performed between 12 years and 16 years
- Circumcision performed older than 16 years

24. It may be better to perform circumcision in children less than 1 month old compared to adolescent circumcision. What are the good reasons? (You may choose more than one option)

- I don't know
- Complication rates are lower
- Healing is quicker
- The procedure is not complicated by erections
- They do not need stitches
- None of the above

Thank you for completing the questionnaire.