

# MALE CIRCUMCISION HAS HEALTH BENEFITS

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**C**urrent research strongly indicates that male circumcision has health benefits. We Jews circum-cise only our sons and forcefully disapprove female genital mutilation/cutting/circumcision. In a personal communication to me, Harald zur Hausen (Medicine Nobel Prize 2008) does state that the effect of male circumcision in protecting against sexually transmitted diseases is at best moderate – some protective effect is recently found. I have written a book discussing health benefits of male circumcision, complications and ethical questions. In my text, human papillomavirus (HPV) is in focus. Male circumcision is found to be directly linked to cancer of the penis and also indirectly to cervical cancer in women through the reduction of HPV burden. Research shows that male circumcision is associated with a decreased risk of penile HPV infection, and also of cancer of the cervix in the female sexual partners.

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