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Religious circumcision and the Human Rights Act

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Published on: 7 February 2002

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On Gatrad's summary of New Testament teachings about circumcision

https://adc.bmj.com/content/86/2/76.responses#circumcision-medically-religiously-and-legally-unjustified
Michael Glass, Teacher
Dear Editor

Unfortunately, Gatrad, Sheiky and Jacks did not get it right in their summary of New Testament teachings about circumcision.

While it is true that Jesus was circumcised, John's Gospel quotes him as making a very pointed dig at circumcisers. He mentioned how his critics circumcised on the sabbath day and retorted: 'Why are you angry with me for making a man whole and complete on a sabbath...

Conflict of Interest:
None declared.

Circumcision medically, religiously, and legally unjustified
J. Steven Svoboda, Executive Director
Dear Editor

As the world's only organisation of lawyers and their supporters devoted to putting an end to all forms of female and male circumcision, we were disappointed by your recent publication of the above-referenced article. Gatrad et al seem to have failed to critically reflect upon the realities of male and female genital cutting in the modern world. In contrast to their attempted distinction between the c...

Conflict of Interest:
None declared.

The lesser of two evils
Basil Elnazir, Paediatric SpR
Dear Editor,

I read with interest the article by Gatrad et al[1]. It is certainly a timely and topical issue, particularly now where we live in a world with no geographical boundaries or limits. A world of mixed cultures and believes.
Recently Ireland, just like anywhere else, has experienced a major influx of immigrants. I can share a recent experience where a 3 month old infant was admitted following...

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Conflict of Interest:
None declared.

Published on: 11 February 2002

The foreskin, and boys, have value
Christopher P Price, Retired solicitor
Dear Editor

It is a matter of concern that Gatrad et al.[1] seriously misrepresent what the second [2] of their cited articles said: Williams and Kapila actually suggested, in common with majority thinking, that one-SIXTH and not one-third of the world's males are circumcised. What is even more disturbing is that an article with such a fundamental error, as well as its other flaws, should find publication, and as...

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Conflict of Interest:
None declared.

Published on: 7 February 2002

Male circumcision under legal cloud in United Kingdom
George Hill, Executive Secretary
Dear Editor

Gatrad and colleagues maintain that male circumcision is lawful in the United Kingdom.[1] This is undoubtedly true in the case of legally competent adult males who consent with full information to the procedure. However, in the case of minor children, the lawfulness becomes unclear. The Children and Young Persons Act 1933 makes an assault or injury to any organ of the body of a person under 16 years of age a mi...

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None declared.
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