

Male circumcision for HIV prevention

The Male Circumcision Consortium

aims to reduce the number of new HIV infections in Kenya by improving and expanding the provision of safe and voluntary male circumcision services

MCC
MALE CIRCUMCISION
CONSORTIUM

A Promising Intervention

The Male Circumcision Consortium (MCC) was established after three clinical trials among uncircumcised men showed that becoming circumcised dramatically reduced the men's chances of becoming infected with HIV. One study was conducted in Kisumu, Kenya, and the others were in South Africa and Uganda.

Overall, male circumcision lowered the risk of HIV infection by about 60 percent.

Follow-up research in Kenya found that this protective effect of male circumcision was sustained over 42 months, reducing men's chances of becoming infected with HIV by 64 percent.

These results suggest that the widespread practice of male circumcision as part of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy could limit the spread of the virus across sub-Saharan Africa.

The Challenge

The results from Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda were observed under the ideal conditions of a scientific

study. Now the challenge is to apply these findings and determine the most effective ways to integrate safe and voluntary male circumcision into HIV prevention services.

Research to Practice

The MCC will generate evidence to guide national efforts to expand safe and voluntary male circumcision services.

The project's goals are to:

- Support the Government of Kenya and other local partners to develop and implement a national male circumcision strategy.
- Expand a male circumcision research and training centre in Kisumu to train providers, build the capacity of health facilities, and monitor clinical outcomes.
- Work with the media and community leaders to disseminate accurate information about male circumcision.
- Conduct research to ensure that the procedures that were performed in the clinical trials are safe and effective in real-world settings.



The Partners

Family Health International (FHI), the University of Illinois at Chicago, and EngenderHealth are partners in the consortium.

We carry out the MCC Project in close collaboration with the ministries of public health and medical services and the Nyanza Reproductive Health Society, in support of a national effort led by the Government of Kenya.

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Where We Work

We work within the framework of the National Guidance for Voluntary Male Circumcision in Kenya. The MCC works in the following regions: Kisumu East, Kisumu West, Nyando, Homa Bay, Rachuonyo, and Rongo.

What We Do

In Nyanza, the MCC supports the offices of the provincial directors of public health and sanitation and of medical services, who coordinate provision of male circumcision services.

Provincial task force. The MCC supports a task force that coordinates male circumcision activities through the Provincial Health Management Team, district health management teams, and other partners.

Training centre. We work with the Nyanza Reproductive Health Society to operate a research and training centre in Kisumu.



Training. Through the centre, the MCC Project prepares teams of health workers who train, supervise, and support providers of safe and voluntary male circumcision services.

Communication. We work with local partners, opinion leaders, and the media to disseminate accurate information about male circumcision and HIV prevention.

Surveillance. The MCC collaborates with the Ministry of Health to develop and maintain a male circumcision surveillance system—linked to the established national health management information system—that monitors uptake of services, safety, and other outcomes among clients of male circumcision services.

Research to Improve Services

The MCC conducts research to inform future efforts to provide safe and voluntary male circumcision services.

Social and Behavioural Research

The project assesses behaviour, attitudes, and beliefs about male circumcision in Nyanza. It will also evaluate the impact of male circumcision on sexual risk behaviour and on the rates of HIV.

Operations Research

The MCC conducts operations research to:

- Identify ways to improve and expand the provision of safe and voluntary male circumcision services.
- Determine how to integrate male circumcision into existing HIV services.
- Assess the potential for private-sector providers, clinical officers, and nurses to provide safe, high-quality male circumcision services.
- Determine the viability of using outreach services to enhance access to safe and voluntary male circumcision.

Resources

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