Chapter 16

A SURVEY OF SUBJECTIVE FORESKIN SENSATION IN 600 INTACT MEN

Peter J. Ball
NORM-UK

Abstract: The foreskin contributes immensely to the enjoyment of sex. Phimosis may mar this enjoyment but is a condition that may well be preventable by appropriate early instruction. The foreskin is a sexual organ in its own right, which is ablated forever by the act of circumcision.

Most people are aware that circumcision removes the foreskin and permanently exposes the glans of the penis. This results in the thickening or keratinization of the glans. For some, this is a bonus because it enables them to delay an orgasm, for others it is a curse, making efforts to reach orgasm tedious or even impossible. I believe that many women and most circumcised men are totally unaware of the role the foreskin plays in the enjoyment of sex. To increase this awareness, I have asked more than six-hundred intact men to answer twenty questions related to their subjective experiences of foreskin sensation.

The subjects were drawn from a variety of sources: men whose intact status was already known to me; referrals from these men, many of whom replied to an invitation to complete my questionnaire, which was placed on the NORM-UK website and on a naturist website; and some were recruited from subscribers to three Yahoo foreskin-related internet discussion groups. A large group came from men whose foreskins were too tight and who had sought advice via the NORM-UK website. During the preparation of my questionnaire, I showed it to Dr. John Taylor, who suggested some extra questions. I shall discuss the questions posed and the replies received.

G.C. Denniston et al. (eds.), Bodily Integrity and the Politics of Circumcision, 177–188.
© 2006 Springer.
QUESTION 1. AGE INCIDENCE

The youngest respondent was sixteen and eight replied, the peak incidence was in the twenty to twenty-four age group with over sixty and a further peak of over fifty replies in the forty to forty-four age group.

QUESTION 2. “HOW MUCH OF THE GLANS IS COVERED (A) WHEN FLACCID? (B) WHEN ERECT?”

This question was posed because of the wide natural variation of length of the foreskin. It varies from total coverage with overhang to so little coverage that the owner could be mistaken for a circumcised man. Indeed, several men with a short foreskin were uncertain whether this represented a naturally occurring state or whether they had been circumcised. After excluding the phimotic men, the majority of my respondents, eighty-eight percent (270), had a foreskin that covered the glans fully when flaccid and at least three-fourths on erection.

QUESTION 3. “CAN YOU RETRACT YOUR FORESKIN FULLY (A) WHEN FLACCID? AND (B) WHEN ERECT?”

The returns from Question 3 have enabled me to divide foreskins into three groups:

(i) Normal – fully retractable both flaccid and erect. (90% of my survey)
(ii) Phimotic Grade 1 – retractable when flaccid but not when erect.
(iii) Phimotic Grade 2 – non-retractable when flaccid or erect. This graph shows the incidence of these groups in my study.