



Aposthia- A Motive of Circumcision Origin

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Circumcision- the removal of some or the entire prepuce from the penis- is one of the most ancient and preliterate practice but controversial on various grounds worldwide (1). Contradictory decisions on circumcision of a German court and German parliament are recent evidence. Amazingly the medical scholars also seem divided and have published various contra- studies about circumcision in prestigious journals (2). Mostly the controversy is based on religion. Because it is a religious obligation among Muslims and Jews while objectionable in all other major religions. Therefore in near future, no single opinion is expected.

To know the importance of any practice, knowledge about its origin is prerequisite. But during this debate, it has been forgotten why were the people of the pre-literate era compelled to put an end to prepuce despite the best properties as suggested by various scholars, where as they had no religious or social compulsions. The motives for circumcision in preliterate cultures due to absence of adequate written or archeological records seem difficult to define (3). In spite of it, various theories have been proposed that it began as a religious sacrifice, as a means of reducing or improving sexual ability, as an aid to hygiene and etc(4). But most of these theories do not seem responsible for origin of circumcision, however, a proposal that copying of persons/leader born without prepuce (i.e. Aposthia) as a motive of circumcision seems most appropriate. In the last few years, various cases of Aposthia had been reported (5,6). Amin et al. (5) reported aposthia inheritance as normal quantitative recessive human genetic trait in three strictly endogamous families. The paper's insight indi-

cates that aposthia being a quantitative recessive trait may be prevalent in certain ancient healthy and comparatively developed inbred population isolates. As a result the circumcision may have been conventionalized in to a forceful social motive due to constructive and healthy attributes of aposthia bearing tribes/leader. Miller et al. (4) have also reported that the circumcision gave advantages to tribes that practiced it.

Considering all these evidences, it is suggested that the extensive study on aposthia may be helpful for proper understanding the importance of circumcision and reducing the controversy in medical sciences.

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