

MBA Podcasts

C.K Prahalad on democratising
commerce and emerging markets

TIMES ONLINE

NEWS COMMENT BUSINESS SPORT LIFE & STYLE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SLAVERY

UK WORLD POLITICS WEATHER TECH & WEB RELATED REPORTS

Where am I? Home NEWS World

From Times Online

March 28, 2007

Circumcise men to cut Aids, says UN

Sam Knight and agencies

Men should be circumcised to reduce their risk of catching HIV, the virus that causes Aids, the UN recommended today.

The World Health Organisation and UNAIDS, the UN agency that co-ordinates the global fight against Aids, said there was compelling evidence that the operation can reduce infections among heterosexual men by up to 60 per cent.

The recommendation came out of a conference of HIV experts that discussed three recent trials, in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa, that all showed marked reductions in infection rates for circumcised men.

"Based on the evidence presented, which was considered to be compelling, experts attending the consultation recommended that male circumcision now be recognized as an additional important intervention to reduce the risk of heterosexually acquired HIV infection in men," read the joint UNAIDS and WHO statement.

RELATED LINKS

Disabled Aids virus could provide cure for cystic fibrosis

The health agencies were quick to assure that circumcision does not provide complete protection against infection. Instead, it should be used other preventative measures, including male and female condoms, abstinence, delaying the start of sexual activity

and reducing the number of sexual partners, said Catherine Hankins, of UNAIDS.

Dr Hankins said it was important to guard against a false sense of security which might lead circumcised men to engage in high-risk behavior that could undermine the partial protection provided by the operation.

She also gave warning that men whose foreskin is removed have a higher risk of being infected with HIV if they resume sex before their circumcision wound has healed, which can take six weeks. Likewise, an HIV-positive man can more easily pass on the disease to his partner if the wound is still unhealed, she said.

More study is needed to ascertain the effects of circumcision on the transmission of the disease to women and among homosexual men, but a WHO doctor said the operation would probably reduce infection rates in those instances too.

"It probably does, but we don't have sufficient research now to confirm that," said Dr Teguest Guermo of WHO. "We will be doing some more research on that."

Today's recommendation, and the large scale studies in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa, come after 20 years of anecdotal evidence, which observed lower rates of infection among circumcised men. The operation provides a measure of protection because the cells in the foreskin of the penis are especially vulnerable to the HIV virus.

The benefits of circumcision are thought to be borne out in the lower HIV rates in Northern and Western African countries where the operation is commonly practised for religious or cultural



"Anyone eating a TV dinner is demoted one class" Damian Whitworth
Send your views

OUR PAPERS AUDIO / VIDEO CLASSIFIEDS



SEARCH

MY PROFILE | OFFERS | SITEMAP

MOST READ

MOST COMMENTED

MOST CURIOUS

TODAY

Woman sailor 'confesses' on Iranian TV
Blair steps up pressure on Iran as US moves in
She kissed — and then she told
Briton's body buried in bath of sand

FOCUS ZONE



Hidden Treasures

A guide to the offbeat attractions to be found in various far-flung destinations around the world

Start your engines
Upfront Rugby
Cook India
Identity Management

Cruise Revival
Lives Back
Your World
Business Travel
Entrepreneurs

QUICKLINKS

SU DOKU



Now Interactive

Do you Su Doku? Solve puzzles on screen with our unique interactive games

Su Doku
Travel

Driving
Podcasts

Career & Jobs
Photo Galleries

SERVICES

Business City Guides
Credit Clinic
Free Finance Brochures
Restaurant Search

Times TV
Business Directory
Dating
Property Finder

Business City Guides

Overseas contacts and local business information



COMPETITION

Win a PC

Win a HP Touchsmart PC



AD FEATURE

More Than a Mobile
Wi-Fi mobile service



communities where the main route of HIV infection is among men having sex with women, rather than among homosexual men or drug users. Forecasts have suggested that as many as 5.7 million new cases of HIV infection and 3 million deaths over 20 years could result from more widespread male circumcision in sub-Saharan Africa.

The UN said today that the risks involved in male circumcision are generally low, but can be serious if the operation is performed in unhygienic settings by poorly trained, ill-equipped health workers. With proper training, the operation can be performed safely under local anesthesia by "midlevel" health workers like nurses or clinical officers at a cost of \$50-\$100 (£25 to £51) per person, WHO officials said.

Priority should be given to providing circumcision to age groups at highest risk of acquiring HIV because it will have the most immediate impact on the disease. But today's statement said that circumcising younger males also will have a public health impact over the longer term.

HAVE YOUR SAY

* Your View

1000 characters left

* Name

* Email

* Town / City

Country / State

* Required Field

Remember me

[Terms and conditions](#)

SUBMIT

PRINT

EMAIL

POST TO
DEL.ICIO.US

POST TO
NEWSVINE

ALSO IN WORLD

[Tallest man finds love on doorstep](#)

[First Afghan action kills 122](#)

[Rescuers search sea of sewage for missing as 1,500 are left homeless](#)

ALSO IN NEWS

[Paris fears more riots as rail ticket arrest sparks violence](#)

[Authors face £3m bill after Da Vinci Code appeal fails](#)

[Harry's wizard ending](#)

EXPLORE WORLD

[IRAQ](#)

[US & AMERICAS](#)

[EUROPE](#)

[MIDDLE EAST](#)

[ASIA](#)

COMPETITION

**Win tickets to see
Derren Brown live**



CLASSIFIEDS

CARS JOBS

PROPERTY TRAVEL

CARS OF THE WEEK

Audi Q7 4.2 FSi Quattro

2006

£47,995

SE England

Bentley Continental GT

2004/04

£79,950

NE England

BMW X5 4619cc 5 door

2003/53

£26,995

Inside M25

Ferrari F430 Spider

2005/55

£139,950

The Midlands

[Search for more cars
and bikes](#)

Search Ad Reference:

SEARCH

Gangsters asked to swap Xboxes for guns

GADGETS & GAMING

EBay touts miss out on PS3 profits




Your World

Tell us all about your travel experiences. Touring the Globe with BMW

How are we doing?

▶ [CLICK HERE TO LET US KNOW](#)



Where am I? [Home](#) [NEWS](#) [World](#)

[CONTACT US](#) | [BACK TO TOP](#)

[NEWS](#) | [COMMENT](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [SPORT](#) | [LIFE & STYLE](#) | [ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [SLAVERY](#)



[SEARCH](#)

Contact our [advertising team](#) for advertising and sponsorship in Times Online, The Times and The Sunday Times. This service is provided on Times Newspapers' [standard Terms and Conditions](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#). To inquire about a licence to reproduce material from Times Online, The Times or The Sunday Times, click [here](#) © Copyright Times Newspapers Ltd