

Parental Satisfaction Survey about the Cosmetic Effect of Circumcision Related to the Technique Used

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ABSTRACT

Background: Circumcision is one of the most commonly performed surgical procedures for cultural, religious, and medical purposes. Despite its long history and wide sense of practice, there is limited understanding of parental satisfaction, especially of the cosmetic outcome. This study, therefore, attempts to understand parental satisfaction with the cosmetic results of different circumcision techniques and the factors that influence it.

Methods: This descriptive cross-sectional study is done in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia from May 2024 to December 2024. Parents are approached from health facilities where they took their circumcised child, who are six years old at most. Data were collected using a standardized, pretested, modified questionnaire adapted from a validated tool, containing items regarding the demographic details of the participant, type of practitioner, age at circumcision, anesthetic used, circumcision technique, and pain, stress, and satisfaction levels. Correlation and difference analyses were done on these satisfaction variables.

Results: Out of the total 400 parents surveyed, the majority of them were dissatisfied with the overall outcome of the circumcision. "Unsatisfied" and "Very unsatisfied" were the expected responses. The most common kinds of practitioners were general surgeons, and general anesthesia or no anesthesia was most commonly used. Of note was that there was no correlation between the type of doctor or anesthesia and parental satisfaction. However, a high level of dissatisfaction was recorded, thus pointing to an existing gap between clinical outcomes and parents' expectations.

Conclusion: There was a high discrepancy between clinical success and positive parental satisfaction with the circumcision procedure. This emphasizes the need for enhanced counseling during the preoperative period and postoperative care to address parental concerns, which leads to increased overall satisfaction. Future studies should consider other factors affecting satisfaction and strategies to enhance cosmetic results and parental experience with circumcision.

Bahrain Med Bull 2025; 47 (1): 2707-2711

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