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HEADLINE: CHANGING RECS

ANCHOR LEAD: WHY DID THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CIRCUMCISION? ELIZABETH TRACEY REPORTS

Much practice-changing medical research originates here, in the United States, and is subsequently promulgated elsewhere around the world. But now research conducted in sub-Saharan Africa has largely motivated a change in recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding male infant circumcision. Mike Klag, dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, explains.

KLAG: One of the reasons the recommendations have been revised is because of the evidence that grew out of international studies. Specifically the large clinical trials that were done to look at circumcision as an intervention to prevent HIV infection. And we know from three trials that it has a profound impact on risk of HIV infection, lowering it by half. :22

Circumcision also reduces the risk of other sexually transmitted infections, urinary tract infections and penile cancer, so it makes good sense from a health standpoint. At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.