In the equation, the value of the actual foreskin is often put at zero. Put a value on it. It is a structure in its own right.

– John R. Taylor, M.D., pathologist

As a medical student, we don’t learn anything about foreskins. In my anatomy textbook, there are two lines about the foreskin: “It’s the skin that folds back upon itself and reattaches around the glans penis,” and the second line is: “It’s the skin that’s usually removed during circumcision.” And that’s it, in the entire textbook.

– Stewart Blandon, M.D.

Nature is a possessive mistress, and whatever mistakes she makes about the structure of the less essential organs, such as the brain and stomach, in which she has not much interest, you can be sure that she knows best about the genital organs.

– Sir James Spence, M.D.

Because circumcision has been practiced so routinely in the United States for at least several generations, few Americans today are familiar with the natural penis. In the United States, even health professionals may receive little training about and have little clinical experience with the normal intact male genitalia.

To provide informed, respectful care to males with intact genitals, and to fully understand the harms of circumcision, health professionals must have a thorough grasp of the anatomy, development, and functions of the foreskin (also known as the prepuce).

The following articles and videos are excellent sources of information on these topics, presented here in the interest of demystifying, normalizing, and ascribing value to this unique, sexually important body part.

See also our pages on the Sexual Impact of Circumcision and on Care of the Intact Penis.

This page is under development.
Anatomy and Functions of the Foreskin


Development and Care of the Intact Penis

Normal development of the prepuce: birth through age 18.
*Circumcision Information and Resource Pages* review article.
http://www.cirp.org/library/normal/

The development of retractile foreskin in the child and adolescent.
*Review article from from Doctors Opposing Circumcision.*
http://www.doctorsopposingcircumcision.org/resources/

Fleiss P. Protect your uncircumcised son: expert medical advice for parents. *Mothering Magazine*, 1999. *What parents (and health professionals) need to know about minor problems and normal variations with the foreskin, to show why circumcision is rarely medically necessary.*
http://www.mothering.com/articles/new_baby/circumcision/protect-uncircson.html

https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/moral-landscapes/201110/what-is-the-greatest-danger-uncircumcised-boy

https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/moral-landscapes/201110/doctor-ignorance-male-anatomy-harms-boys

Videos

*NOTE: The following visual resources may contain pictures of adult or infant male genitals, for educational purposes only.*

VIDEO: Scott S. The prepuce: anatomy and physiology of the foreskin. *The anatomy of the foreskin and the effects of circumcision on its function.*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luDqvvGbhzU

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmToXLVrZ7c

VIDEO: Milos M. The penis: Sex Education 101. *How circumcision affects human sexuality for both the male and his partner.*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgoTRMKrJo4

VIDEO: The natural foreskin – retraction and the frenulum. *Non-sexual demonstrations of the anatomy of the intact penis.*
https://vimeo.com/131329846