

Acceptability of medical male circumcision (MMC) among health care providers in Port-au-Price, Haiti

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Background

Medical male circumcision (MMC) is uncommon in Haiti. Haiti has the highest number of people living with HIV in the Caribbean, the second most affected region in the world. MMC can benefit the population by lowering the risk of HIV infection, other STIs and male and female genital cancers.



Methods

A cross sectional survey was administered in 2013 to health providers attending training at the GHESKIO centers, Haiti. Participants filled out a culturally adapted multiple-choice questionnaire designed to assess their attitudes, knowledge and willingness to provide MMC.



Results

Of the 153 health providers, 27.5% were males ; 31% physicians, 50% nurses and 19% auxiliary personnel, with an average of 5.4 (SD = 5.8) years of work experience. Among the physicians and nurses, only 28% had ever assisted with a MMC procedure and 64% said they would require training to perform one. Around 70% thought that male patients at their health facilities would accept MMC for the prevention of HIV/STI's, and 58% responded that infancy was the best age for MMC. Around 84% had not heard of any complications or adverse events following MMC and 65% thought a general surgeon as the most able to perform MMC.

Conclusions

MMC is an acceptable intervention for HIV, STIs and genital cancers among health providers in Haiti. They should be trained to perform MMC given its known health benefits.

