Female genital mutilation – Medical Perspectives

A/Prof Nesrin Varol
Meaning of FGM

• Social obligation
  • Marriageability
  • Virginity / marital fidelity
  • Rite of passage
  • Aesthetics
  • Family honour
Australian study
2006-2012

• 200 women with FGM

• 9,000 women without FGM
Obstetric outcomes

Maternal:
CS, instrumental birth, episiotomy, genital tract trauma, PPH

Neonatal:
low birth weight, admission to SCN, stillbirth
Demographics of women with FGM

• Prevalence 2%-3%

• 90% from countries of Africa

• 2/3 had types II & III

• 90% of women with type III from East Africa

• 50% of women from Somalia & Sudan: type III
Obstetric outcomes

• similar obstetric outcomes
Midwives’ experiences of caring for women with female genital mutilation: Insights and ways forward for practice in Australia

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Evidence to inform education, training and supportive work environments for midwives involved in the care of women with female genital mutilation: A review of global experience

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REVIEW ARTICLE

A systematic review of doctors’ experiences and needs to support the care of women with female genital mutilation

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Where to from here?
National FGM Taskforce

- Multi-professional
- Research
- Knowledge and training
- Policy and guidelines
- http://accaf.uonbi.ac.ke
Thank you
WHO study
Lancet 2006

• 30,000 women, 6 African countries, 28 obstetric centres

• Type III – 30% higher CS; 70% higher PPH

• PNM – 15%, 32%, 55% higher with types I, II, III

• neonatal resuscitation - 66% more likely if type III
The role of men in abandonment of female genital mutilation: a systematic review

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