

UNIVERSITY OF THE GAMBIA

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

National Scientific Meeting. 13 March 2015.

Title: Analysis about Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

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Objectives

- To broaden students' knowledge about Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C).
- To identify the types of FGM /C.
- To Know where it is practice.
- To understand the immediate and long term complications of FGM/C.

Contents

- Definition
- Classification
- Epidemiology
- Complications
- FGM/C and Medical Ethics
- FGM and Human Rights

Definition

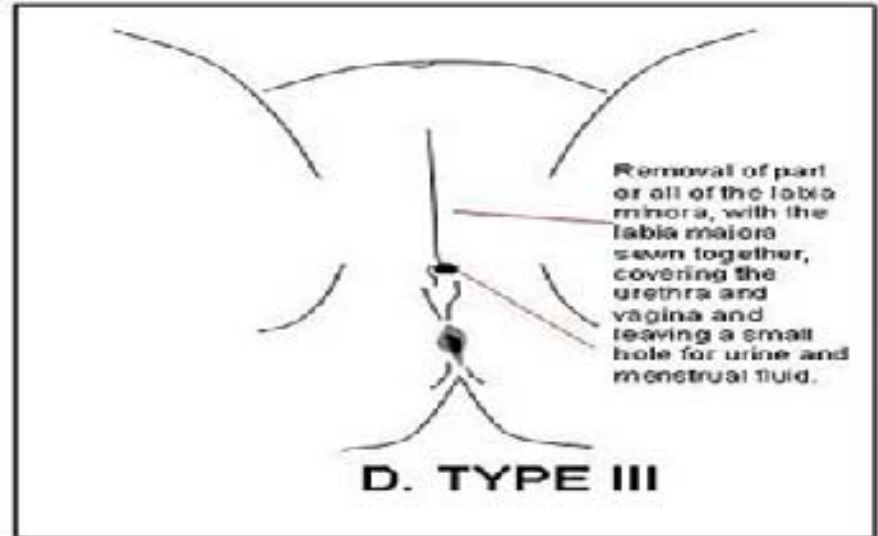
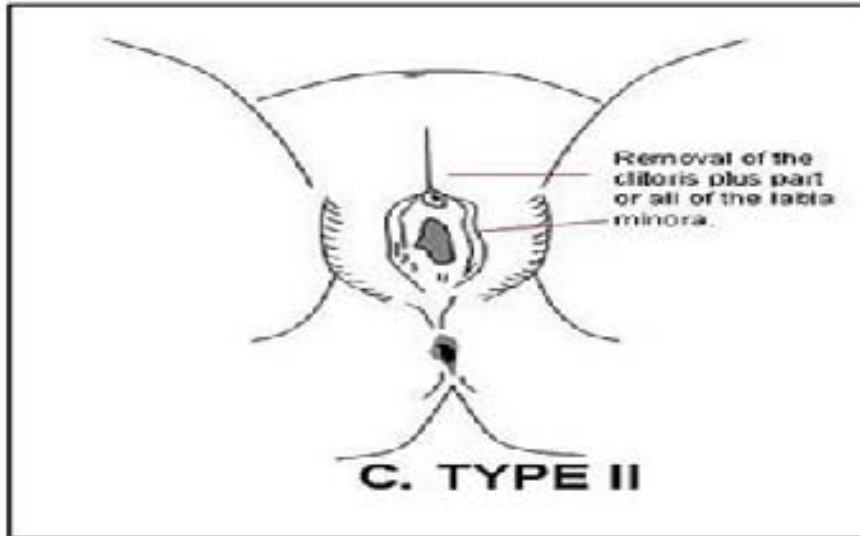
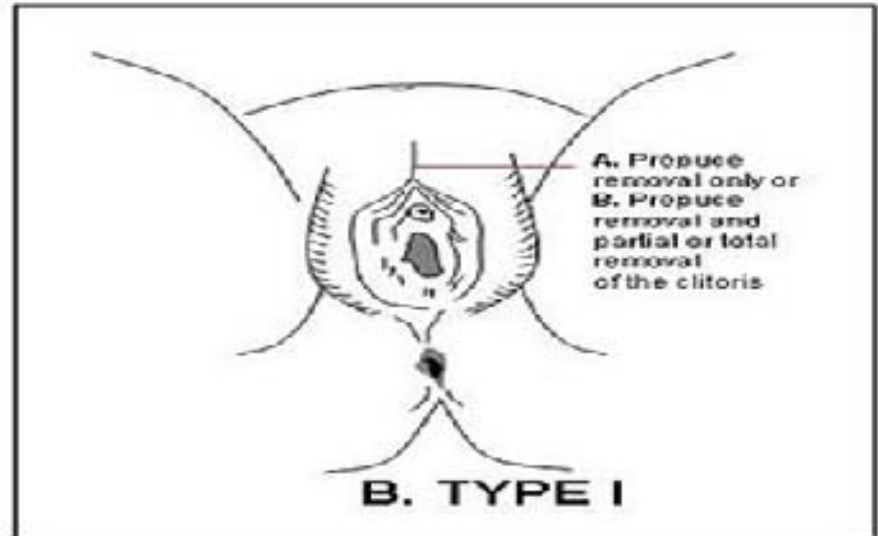
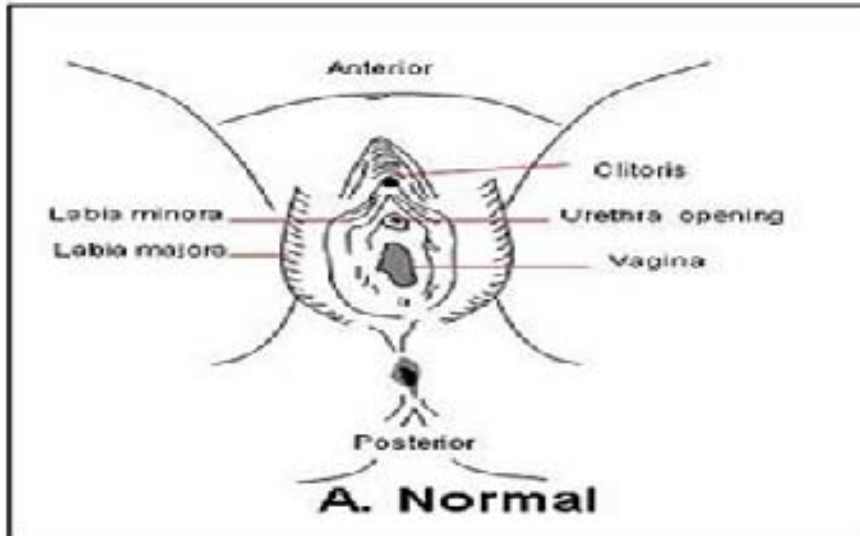
The term FGM/C refers to all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural, religious or other non-therapeutic reasons.

Classification

The World Health Organization classified FGM/C into 4 types:

- a. Type I – partial or total removal of the clitoris.
- b. Type II – type I with the removal of the labia minora with/without the excision of the labia majora.
- c. Type III – narrowing of the vaginal orifice with the creation of a covering seal by cutting or appositioning the labia minora and majora.
- d. Type IV – involves all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes.

Schematic Representation



Epidemiology

FGM/C is practiced in 26 countries in Africa.



Complications of FGM/C

Immediate

- Pain
- Haemorrhage
- Shock
- Injury to tissues
- Acute urine retention
- infection

Long- term

- Recurrent urinary tract infection
- Pelvic infections
- Problems in childbirth
- Dyspareunia
- Sexual dysfunction

FGM/C and Professional Ethics

Ethics is defined as “ a moral reason of action” which is based on standards or code of conducts set by people in a specific profession.

Medical Ethics is the application of principles of ethics into the practice of medicine.

SHOULD THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL REFUSE TO PERFORM FGM/C?

FGM/C and Human Rights

- There are strongly held beliefs that FGM/C improves moral behaviour of females by reducing their sexual arousal.
- Both behaviour improvement and sexual control of women through FGM/C are ethically not accepted.
- This a direct and obvious violation of Human Rights.
- They have the absolute right to enjoy their sexual life and it is the society's duty to protect this right.

Conclusions

- The World Health Organization classified FGM/C into 4 types.
- FGM/C is practiced in half of the countries of Africa.
- FGM/C has many immediate and long term complications.
- There was consent amount the students that the FGM/C is harmful and the professionals of the health should cooperate in its eradication

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