

Female Circumcision in sub-Saharan Africa

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Warning!

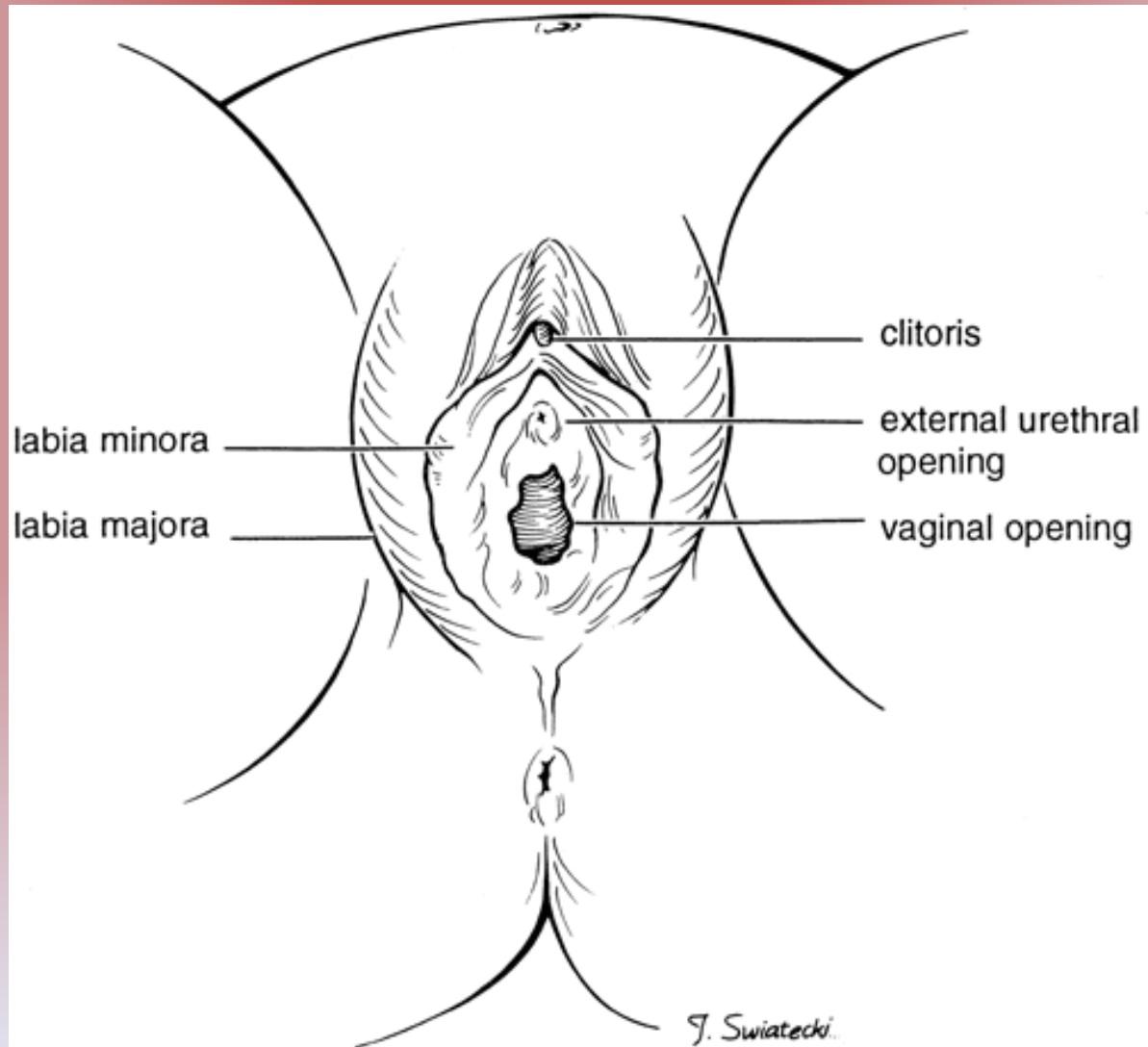
The information contained within this presentation is very graphic in nature.

Those who can easily become queasy or have heart conditions are suggested to excuse themselves from this presentation at this time.

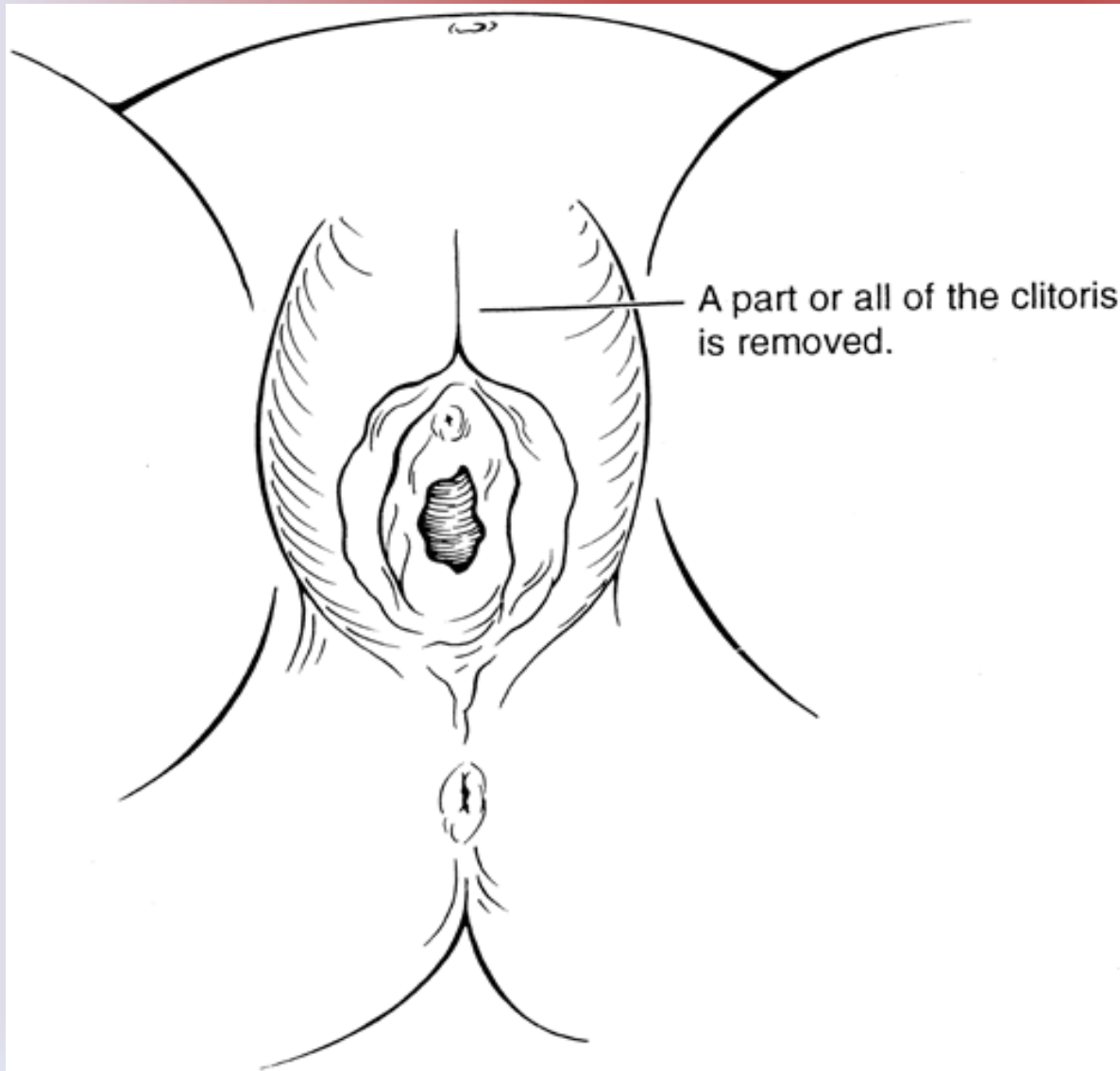
4 Types of Medical Procedures

Barbara Jernigan

Normal Anatomy



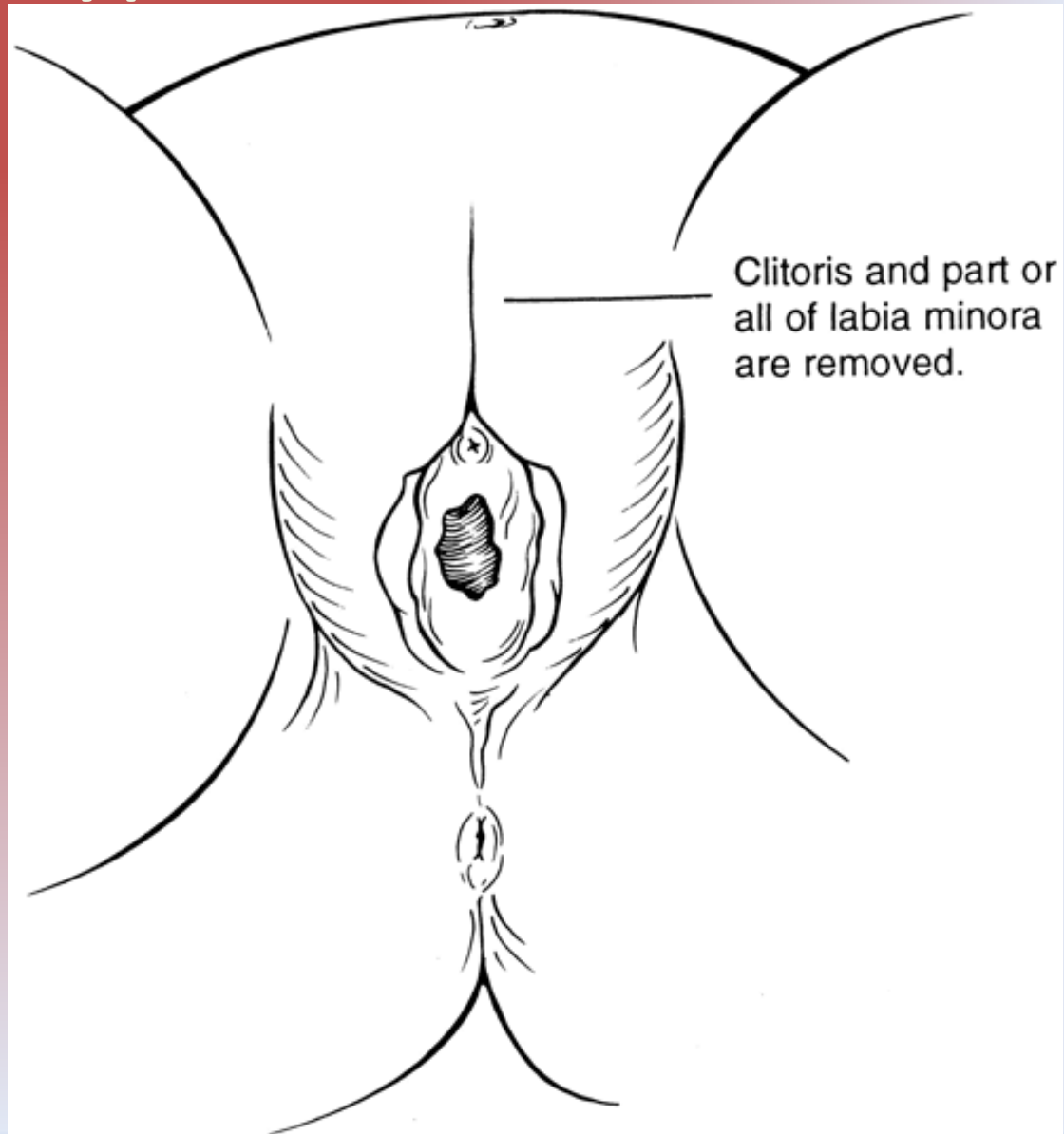
Type I



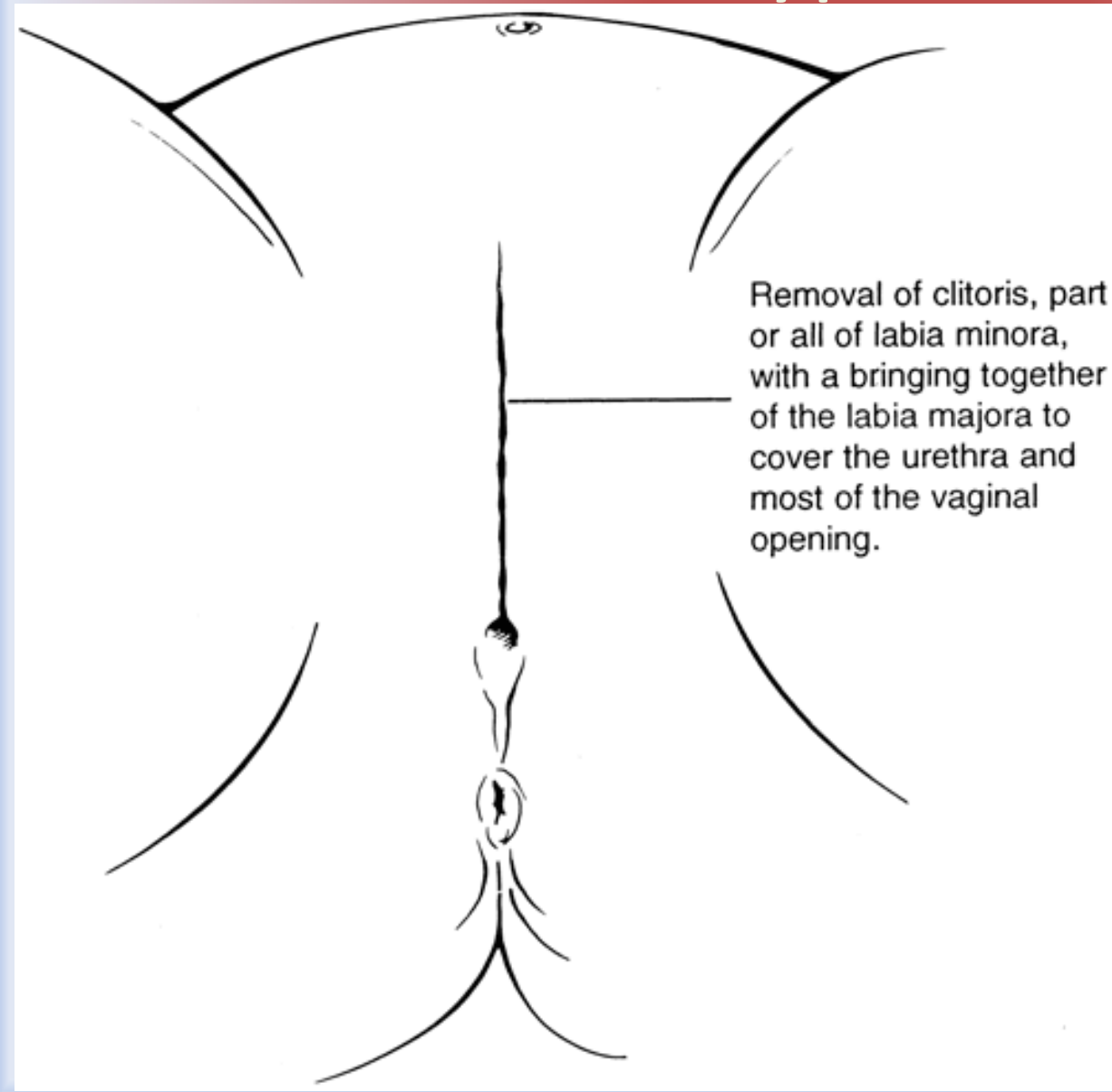
"Type I FGM, often termed clitoridectomy, involves excision of the skin surrounding the clitoris with or without excision of part or all of the clitoris (Fig 2). When this procedure is performed in infants and young girls, a portion of or all of the clitoris and surrounding tissues may be removed. If only the clitoral prepuce is removed, the physical manifestation of Type I FGM may be subtle, necessitating a careful examination of the clitoris and adjacent structures for recognition."

Type II

"Type II FGM, referred to as excision, is the removal of the entire clitoris and part or all of the labia minora. Crude stitches of catgut or thorns may be used to control bleeding from the clitoral artery and raw tissue surfaces, or mud poultices may be applied directly to the perineum. Patients with Type II FGM do not have the typical contour of the anterior perineal structures resulting from the absence of the labia minora and clitoris. The vaginal opening is not covered in the Type II procedure."



Type III



"Type III FGM, known as infibulation, is the most severe form in which the entire clitoris and some or all of the labia minora are excised, and incisions are made in the labia majora to create raw surfaces. The labial raw surfaces are stitched together to cover the urethra and vaginal introitus, leaving a small posterior opening for urinary and menstrual flow. In Type III FGM, the patient will have a firm band of tissue replacing the labia and obliteration of the urethra and vaginal openings."

Type IV

"Type IV includes different practices of variable severity including pricking, piercing or incision of the clitoris and/or labia; stretching of the clitoris and/or labia; cauterization of the clitoris; and scraping or introduction of corrosive substances into the vagina."



Media's Influence

Cathy Hennes

How does the media portray Female Circumcision?

- Searching

- Yahoo!

- [Yahoo! \(Female Circumcision\)](#)

- Google

- [Google \(Female Circumcision\)](#)

- Medical Sites

- Journal of the American Medical Association

- Psychist.com

YouTube

Terms

Female Circumcision

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Cutting (FGC)

- News Sites

- ABCNews.com

- [ABCNews.com](#)

- BBC

- [Story from 2001](#)

- AllAfrica.com

- Special Projects

- The Female Genital Cutting Education and Networking Project

- [Sudanese Bachelors Question FGC](#)

Grassroots Efforts

Rodney Lewallen

Activist Groups

- Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices
 - <http://www.iac-ciaf.com/aboutus.htm>
- United Nations
 - <http://www.un.org/english/>
- World Health Organization
 - http://www.who.int/topics/female_genital_mutilation/en/
- UNICEF
 - <http://www.unicef.org/>
- Division of Family and Reproductive Health (DRH)
 - <http://www.afro.who.int/drh/>

Legal Issues

Annette Williams

Charters & Agreements Between African Countries, NGO's & International Human Rights Organizations

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**
- **Women's Convention**
- **Children's Rights Convention**
- **Banjul Charter**
- **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

National Efforts to Eliminate FGM

Criminal Legislation/Decree (year enacted)

African Nations:

Benin (2003)

Burkina Faso (1996)

Central African Republic
(1966)

Chad (2003)

Côte d'Ivoire (1998)

Djibouti (1994)

Eritrea (2007)

Egypt (Ministerial
Decree, 1996, 2007)

Ethiopia (2004)

Ghana (1994) Guinea
(1965, 2000)

Kenya (2001)

Niger (2003)

Senegal (1999)

South Africa (2005)

Tanzania (1998)

Togo (1998)

Nigeria (multiple states,
1999-2002)

Laws and Prevalence

The countries where FGC is commonly practiced were identified by the US State Department. Other information in this section is from Skaine (2005).

- Burkina Faso (71.6% prevalence, Type II)
- Central African Republic (43.4% prevalence, Type I and II)
- Côte d'Ivoire (44.5% prevalence, Type II)
- Djibouti (90-98% prevalence, Type II)
- Eritrea (90-95% prevalence, Type I, II and III)
- Ghana (9-15% prevalence, Type I,II and III)

Laws and Prevalence (cont'd)

The countries where FGC is commonly practiced were identified by the US State Department. Other information in this section is from Skaine (2005).

- Nigeria (25.1% prevalence, Type I, II and III)
- Senegal (5-20% prevalence, Type II and III)
- Sudan (91% prevalence, Type I,II and III)
- Tanzania (17.6% prevalence, Type II and III)
- Togo (12% prevalence, Type II)
- Uganda (<5% prevalence, Type I and II)