How female genital cutting can affect girls and women throughout their lives

An estimated 100 million to 140 million girls and women worldwide have undergone female genital cutting (FGC). 200 million women worldwide are affected by FGC.

- Shock, fear, pain
- Haemorrhage
- Infection, septicaemia, tetanus
- HIV transmission due to unsterilised instruments
- Urine retention
- Urinary tract infections
- Chronic pelvic inflammation
- Painful periods (infibulation leaves a tiny hole for menses/urination)
- Keloids and scarring
- Cysts, abscesses and ulcers
- Problems with urination
- School absences, poor academic performance, school drop-out and economic disparity

The majority of girls are cut below age 5. At puberty, FGC damages a girl’s health and welfare. Once cut, girls are often married early. FGC has a direct impact on maternal and infant mortality. favourites can cause long term psychological impacts.

- 70% more likely to suffer haemorrhage after giving birth
- Twice as likely to die in childbirth
- Higher likelihood of stillbirth due to obstructed labour
- Obstetric fistula
- Foetal asphyxia
- Perineal tears

Painful sex
Adverse psycho-sexual effects
Infibulation results in forcible penetration or re-cutting
Increased infertility

Marriage & Intercourse

Pregnancy & Childbirth

Later Life

Childhood

Girlhood

3.9 million girls a year are at risk of being cut.

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