

'Bloodstained Men' take over Fountain Square to protest circumcision



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PICTURE BY MICHAEL BENEDIC | WCPO

CINCINNATI -- A group of protesters took over Fountain Square Monday to speak out against a common practice at American hospitals.

The group "Bloodstained Men

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20150709170423/http://bloodstainedmen.com/>) " took to the square to take part in a nationwide series of protests against circumcision.

The group said itself “intactivists” and called on the country to stop the practice of infant circumcision.

The group claims that 56 percent of American infant males undergo the process and that it is “unnecessary, elective” and “cosmetic.”

Circumcision involves removing foreskin at the tip of the penis. The procedure can reduce germs that can grow underneath the foreskin, and complications, including bleeding and infection, are rare, doctors said.

In addition to signs and chants, the protestors also wore white overalls with bloodstained crotches providing a graphic metaphor for the issue.

The group also launched a Facebook page

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20150709170423/https://www.facebook.com/events/313474395526345/>) to drum up more support.

Similar protesters have come to Cincinnati before. Dozens of members protested outside of Good Samaritan Hospital in 2013

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20150709170423/http://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/cincinnati-protesters-demand-end-to-circumcisions-at-good-samaritan-hospital>) .

At the time, TriState (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150709170423/http://www.trihealth.com/>) Health commented on the issue saying:

"At Good Samaritan Hospital it is understood that patient care, education and research respect and support the total good of the patient and uphold the sanctity of human life and the principles of Catholic teaching. The circumcision study compares two medically accepted circumcision processes. Only after the parent or guardian requests and consents to circumcision for their infant, is informed consent sought for this study; they are free to decline their child’s participation in this study. Steps to ensure pain relief are integral to the study protocol. Male infant circumcision has been practiced for centuries and is not among the procedures prohibited in the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services."

Doctors have come out in years past supporting the procedure

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20150709170423/http://www.wcpo.com/news/national/pediatrician-s-circumcision-pluses-outweigh-risks>) .

In 2012, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20150709170423/http://www.wcpo.com/news/national/pediatrician-s-circumcision-pluses-outweigh-risks>) has estimated circumcision costs range from about \$200 to \$600 nationwide. Coverage varies among insurers and several states have stopped Medicaid funding for circumcisions.

A study projected that declining U.S. circumcision rates could add more than \$4 billion in health care costs in coming years because of increased illness and infections.

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