
'These are knife attacks' - Group protests male circumcision in Myrtle Beach

by Madeline Montgomery

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'These are knife attacks:' Group protests male circumcision in Myrtle Beach (Madeline Montgomery/WPDE)

Myrtle Beach, SC (WPDE) — A dramatically named group, Bloodstained Men, made a dramatic stand against male circumcision in Myrtle Beach on Wednesday.

"These are knife attacks on helpless children," said Harry Guiremand, the group's public speaker.

The group and some supporters met at the intersection of Mr. Joe White Avenue and 10th Avenue North Wednesday morning.

"Educating people about the need to keep their babies whole and not perform genital mutilation on their boys when they're born," said Guiremand.

"It took me all of two minutes of research before I was like absolutely not, there is no reason to put him through pain like that. And if he wants to do it, it's his body, his choice," said Tanya Rentz, a local mother who chose not to circumcise her son.

Pediatricians say they let parents make the choice.

"It is absolutely a parental choice, absolutely a parental choice," said Dr. Becky Eglen, a pediatrician with CPG Pediatrics.

And say they make sure parents understand any risks.

"There's always a risk of bleeding, there's always a risk of infection," said Dr. Eglen.

Protesters argue there is no benefit to circumcision.

"It's a healthy body part, just like your hand or your eye or your foot: it's there for a reason, you don't just cut off healthy body parts," said Guiremand.

While medical professionals say there are known benefits.

"There's a marked decrease in the number of urinary tract infections in newborn babies that are circumcised, there's decreased risk of sexually transmitted diseases later in life," said Dr. Eglen.

"If we can just plant seeds little by little in the community, I think we can make a difference," said Renz.
