FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

SENSITIVE ISSUES

SENSITIVE APPROACH
DEFINITION

• “Female genital mutilation comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the female external genitalia and/or injury to the female genital organs for cultural or any other non-therapeutic reason” (WHO)
An African Perspective
HIGHEST PREVALENCE

• 90% + Djibouti, Sierra Leone, Somalia
• 80%-90% Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Sudan
• 60%-79% Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Egypt
CLASSIFICATION

- TYPE I - Excision of prepuce
- TYPE II - Excision of prepuce and clitoris
- TYPE III - Infibulation
- TYPE IV - Miscellaneous
TYPE I

- Excision of prepuce
- Partial clitoridectomy
- Total clitoridectomy
TYPE II

- Clitoridectomy
- Partial or total excision of labia minora
TYPE III

- Clitoridectomy
- Excision of:
  - Labia minora
  - Labia majora
- Infibulation:
  - Reapproximation of remnant labia majora
  - Creation of neointroitus
TYPE IV

- Introcision
- Stretching
- Nicking
- Cauterization
- Corrosive substances
- Maniputation
FGM Laws in NSW

It is against the law to:

- Circumcise a woman, girl or female baby
- Remove or cut out any part of the female genital area (excise)
- Stitch up female genital area (infibulate)
- Cut the clitoris or part of the clitoris
- Damage the female genital area in other ways
• If someone breaks the law and performs FGM, they can go to prison for up to 7 years

• It is against the law to do FGM even if the woman or girl wants it to be done

• It is against the law to go to another country or another part of Australia to have it performed
It is also against the law to:

“aid, abet, counsel, or procure” a person to perform FGM

• Help someone else to do these acts; or

• Get someone else to do these acts
Re-infibulation

• After childbirth or any other type of gynecological operation only a doctor may stitch up a woman or girl if he/she decides that it is necessary for the woman’s health

• Or a doctor, midwife or medical student may stitch up a woman or girl if he/she decides that it is for medical purpose connected with the woman or girls labour or birth
COMPLICATION OF FGM

- Immediate
- Long term
- Psychological
IMPLICATIONS FOR LABOUR

- Difficulty with accurate assessment
- Perineal laceration
- Urinary retention
OUTCOMES

- Early identification of affected women
- Improved documentation
- Written protocols
• THANK YOU

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