

12th International Conference on
HEMATOLOGY AND HEMATOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY
&
6th International Conference on **HIV/AIDS, STDs AND STIs**
October 29-30, 2018 | San Francisco, USA

Attitudes and perceptions of Alice township communities in Eastern Cape, South Africa on whether penile circumcision is a tool of HIV/AIDS prevention: A 2015 empirical study

Simon Kang'ethe

University of Fort Hare, South Africa

While knowledge of the role of penile circumcision is deep to many communities of the globe, its critical that the attitudes and perceptions of some communities practicing penile circumcision are investigated. The aim of this article was to examine the Alice communities' attitudes and perceptions of whether penile circumcision played a critical role as an HIV/AIDS prevention strategy. The study adopted a qualitative approach and involved conducting various focus group discussions. The design was descriptive, explorative and explanative. Findings espoused diametrically opposed perspectives with some players in accord that penile circumcision was indeed a tested prevention strategy, while others either did not know and considered the fact that penile circumcision was as old as history serving a cultural goal and not any clinical goal; others felt that the prevention capacity of penile circumcision was thwarted by the mal-adaptive behaviors that many initiates developed in the circumcision schools; and due to the pernicious and perfidious discipline the traditional practitioners embraced. The Paper recommends more education on the clinical role of penile circumcision especially to the rural communities; penile circumcision cultural custodians to jealously guard their turf to ensure an environment of discipline among both the practitioners and the initiates; the government to stop interfering with the modus operandi of the traditional male circumcision.

SKangethe@ufh.ac.za