Chapter 4: Client Screening for PrePex Circumcision
Learning Objectives

- At the end of the session, participants should be able to:
  - Understand the importance of screening clients before the PrePex procedure
  - Describe key points in history taking and physical examination for all clients undergoing the VMMC procedure
  - Identify contraindications to PrePex circumcision.
Effective Communication with Clients

- Welcome the client and introduce yourself.
- Talk to the client only when you have his attention.
- Use a pleasant, friendly tone of voice.
- Speak slowly and clearly. People need more time to absorb new information when they are nervous.
- Ask the client if he has questions and answer any questions he asks.
- Safeguard confidentiality.
PrePex Screening Steps

- Ask about client’s general and penile health.
- Establish client’s immunization status.
- Perform a general and focused genital examination.
- Assess foreskin suitability for placement of PrePex.
Key Points in History Taking

- Current general health
- Medications (e.g., anticoagulants, NSAIDs)
- Any known allergies (e.g., to iodine or latex)
- History of bleeding disorders or anemia
- Any current genital infection, ulcer, or penile discharge
- Erectile dysfunction or any other concerns about sexual function
- Any chronic medical conditions for which he may be receiving treatment (e.g., diabetes, hypertension, HIV)
- History of immunization against tetanus and date of last dose (if available)
Physical Examination

- Weight
- Blood pressure
- Pulse
- Temperature
- Presence (and location) of any wounds on the client’s body
Conditions in Client’s General Health that May Preclude PrePex MC

- Active infectious disease
- History of bleeding disorders
- Allergies to rubber/plastic
- Diabetes
- Acute disease (e.g., fever)
- Hypertension
Genital Conditions that May Preclude PrePex MC

1. Abnormalities of the penis (e.g., abnormal structure, from birth or accident)

2. Active disease or infection of the penis:
   - Sexually transmitted infection (STI)
   - Damaged skin
   - Swelling

3. Abnormalities of the foreskin, such as phimosis or paraphimosis
Abnormality of the Structure of the Penis

Hypospadias or Epispadias (relatively common birth defect)
Abnormality of the Structure of the Penis

Tight frenulum: If too short, it restricts the movement of the foreskin.
Active Disease or Infection of the Penis

- Check for signs of genital infection inside and outside the foreskin, including active warts, rash, itching, sores, or discharge (may be caused by STI or allergy).
Abnormality of the Foreskin: Phimosis/Paraphimosis
Abnormality of The Foreskin: Adhesions

Foreskin is attached to the glans and cannot be fully retracted. Abnormal adhesions usually occur following trauma or injury.
Check Foreskin Suitability for PrePex

- Is the foreskin:
  - Flexible, mobile enough?
  - Wide enough for the inner ring?
- Pull back the foreskin gently and examine the frenulum:
  - Any adhesions?
  - Other abnormality?
Examples of Unsuitable Foreskin: Narrow Foreskin

Foreskin pressure on sulcus: When retracted, foreskin does not return automatically
Examples of Unsuitable Foreskin: Narrow Foreskin

Foreskin does not return to normal position.
Examples of Unsuitable Foreskin: Narrow Foreskin

Foreskin opening too narrow and inflexible to allow insertion of inner ring
Check Foreskin Suitability for PrePex

- Roll/fold the foreskin outwards.
- Pull it sideways to check the width and flexibility nearer the sulcus.
Screening Foreskin: Good Foreskin
Screening Foreskin: Foreskin Not Suitable #1
Screening Foreskin: Foreskin Not Suitable #2
The Golden Rule of PrePex Screening

If **anything** is unusual with the client's health or penis, do **not** perform PrePex MC.
Mitigating the Risk of Tetanus Infection

- Due to the recent occurrence of tetanus cases in clients who were circumcised, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a number of strategies to mitigate the risk of tetanus infection.
- This includes tetanus booster doses and immunization where required.
- The decision to vaccinate clients undergoing PrePex circumcision depends on the country’s immunization requirement.
- Refer to the WHO-recommended tetanus immunization options listed in the screening chapter of the PrePex reference manual.
Summary

- Client screening aims to identify clients who are suitable for PrePex circumcision.
- History taking, physical examinations, and genital examination are key steps in screening.
- To mitigate the risk of tetanus after circumcision, providers MUST ascertain the immunization status of all clients.
- Some clients with contraindications to PrePex circumcision (e.g., narrow foreskin) are still eligible for surgical VMMC.
- All providers should be able to identify conditions that may preclude circumcision with the PrePex device.
Activity 4.2

- Refer to Activity 4.2 in the participants’ handbook.
- Match the common contraindications to PrePex circumcision to the pictures provided.
Thank you!