

sor Washofsky's view ("Why Reform Never Abandoned Circumcision," Winter 2008), has done nothing to prevent assimilation or preserve Jewish identity. While we rightfully stand up for women's rights in objecting to female genital mutilation, we have hypocritically failed to see the equivalent male ritual for what it is: a barbaric, anachronistic glorification of the penis. Many Reform Jews feel this ritual violates our ethics because of the extreme pain it causes the baby, and yet we are shut out from the conversation. If Reform Judaism is truly committed to being a progressive religion, we must do away with this sexist, barbaric ritual.

Ronald Eger
San Diego, California

A Pediatrician Responds

As a pediatrician who has performed thousands of circumcisions over 30 years, it's most distressing to read descriptions of the procedure as a brutal, bloody operation involving intense pain. When a skilled, properly trained practitioner applies appropriate local analgesia, there is no pain whatsoever. In fact,

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If you often notice mysterious bruises, it could be nothing.



If you're Jewish, it could be Gaucher Disease.

You may never have heard of Gaucher Disease (pronounced "Go-Shay"). But it is found primarily in Jewish people of Ashkenazi descent. In fact, about one out of every 15 people within this group carries the Gaucher gene, a ratio far higher than Tay Sachs. *It is not age or gender specific, and can affect anyone.*

Gaucher warning signs include:

- Fatigue
- Nosebleeds and other bleeding problems
- Easy bruising
- Enlarged abdomen
- Bone pain and easily fractured bones
- Enlarged liver or spleen
- Low platelet count
- Anemia
- Bone deterioration and osteoporosis


Gaucher can be diagnosed early with a blood test. Carrier status can be detected through blood or saliva. Fortunately, effective treatments are available. The consequences of the disease can be debilitating, so don't wait and wonder, get the facts now.

For additional information, testing and treatment, call toll-free: **877-788-0865**

www.gaucherdisease.org/rj

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Ask your doctor about testing.



National Gaucher Foundation
Celebrating 25 years of service to the Gaucher Community