U.S. Pediatricians Group Sees Benefits in Newborn Circumcision

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The American Academy of Pediatrics, an influential U.S.pediatricians group, says in a new policy statement that the health benefits ofcircumcision in newborn boys outweigh any risks, The Associated Press reports.The group stops short of an endorsement, saying the decision should be up toparents. The group also urges health insurance companies to cover the procedurebecause it reduces the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, aswell as urinary tract infections and penis cancer. The new policy adds to thedebate whether circumcision is medically necessary or a cosmetic procedure.U.S. circumcision rates are declining, but nearly half of baby boys still getcircumcised. About 18 states have eliminated Medicaid coverage of circumcision.

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