Female Genital Mutilation Workshop

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2019
Aims

- Listen to the voices of survivors
- What is FGM?
- FGM Legislation
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Local FGM documents
- FGM Prevalence
- Local Context
- FGM and Mental Health
FGM Quiz
What is Female Genital Mutilation?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision or cutting (NSPCC).

There are 4 type of FGM:

- **Type I:** Clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris;

- **Type II:** Excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora;

- **Type III:** Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal:

- **Type IV:** Other: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterizing the genital area.
# FGM by Type

## Table 2.1: Individuals by FGM Type, England, January 2018 to March 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commissioning Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>London</td>
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<td>415</td>
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<td>95</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<td>1,745</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Values 1-7 are rounded to 5 - all other values are rounded to the nearest 5.
Some key Facts & statistics about FGM
FGM – some key statistics

• Between January 2018 – March 2018; 1,745 attendance to NHS Trusts and GP practices

• In this period 1,030 newly recorded cases

• Average age at attendance is 31

• 87% of women and girls were under 18 when FGM was performed

• Majority of the cases are carried out in Africa

• What we see in the UK is mostly piercings.
## FGM by Age

Table 2.2: Individual women and girls: by age at latest attendance, England, January 2018 to March 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commissioning Region</th>
<th>Age at attendance</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>10 and under 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midlands and East of England</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>North of England</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South of England</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values 1-7 are rounded to 5 - all other values are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source: NHS Digital
FGM – some key statistics

• Between April 2015 and December 2017, **15,390** patients with FGM were treated in the NHS
• Over 50 per cent of patients treated in the NHS were treated and live outside of London (between April 2016 – March 2017)
• More than **200 million girls** and women alive today have been cut in the 30 countries in Africa, Middle East and south east Asia where FGM continues to be practiced
• Across the world, FGM is mostly carried out on young girls sometime between infancy and age 15
• FGM is a violation of the human rights of girls and women
FGM Facts

• There is no religious or medical reason for FGM
• FGM can happen at any age before marriage
• FGM can be dangerous if there is blood loss and infection
• FGM is abuse, and it's illegal in the UK and a violation of the human rights
Legislation
Human Rights

• 1989 UN Convention on the rights of the child

Article 24 states:

“Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children...”

• 2012 UN General Assembly resolved to abolish FGM.
The Law and FGM

• 1985 Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act

• Female genital Mutilation Act 2003
  - All permanent UK residents and UK nationals
  - Either in UK or abroad
  - 14 year prison term

• 2015 Serious Crime Act
The Law and FGM

2015 Serious Crime Act

• Mandatory reporting duty
  o Health care, social workers, educational staff
    mandatory responsibility to report all new cases of FGM in under 18’s to the police
    within 30 days of disclosure.
  o This includes WHO 4 FGM e.g. Piercing.
The Law and FGM

Serious Crime Act 2015

• FGM Protection Order
• Breach of FGMPO 5 year prison term
• Removal passports, condition of travel, support from home office whilst abroad, protection order in UK.
First FGM Prosecution in the UK

FGM: Mother guilty of genital mutilation of daughter

The mother of a three-year-old girl has been found guilty of female genital mutilation

FGM conviction: Mother of girl, 3, becomes first person found guilty of female genital mutilation in UK

Mother tried ‘witchcraft’ against investigators, while claiming the girl had fallen off a worktop
Roles and Responsibilities

Group Work
Consider your role and responsibilities in the following scenarios:

A 10 year old (resident of the UK) attends St Bells’ School in Basingstoke, has just told her school teacher and the classroom assistant that she is going to Somalia for her summer holiday and there is a party being planned for her. Her mother and grandmother have told her they had the same party at her age and the 10 year old is really looking forward to the party. She has been promised a really nice present. She attends one of the local Scouts Club.

- What are the risks/Risk Assessment
- What are your next steps
- What resources will you use to support your next steps
- How will you explain the next steps to the 10 year old
- How will you manage different in professional opinion
HSCB / HSAB FGM
A partnership approach 2016 -2019

HSCB/HSAB strategy rests on two fundamental premises:

• Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a form of violence against women and girls

• The practice is illegal in the UK and it is also illegal to take a British national or permanent resident abroad for FGM or to help someone trying to do this
FGM Prevalence
IRAQ
FGC is legal in Iraq which has a national prevalence of 8%. FGC is illegal in Iraqi Kurdistan where in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah ~50% of women have been cut. In 2012 Iraqi Kurdistan set up the first hotline in the Middle East for cut women.

IRAN
FGC is legal in Iran where small studies in regions bordering Iraq and in the South found 40-85% of women have been cut. In 2009, high ranking clerics issued Fatwas banning FGC.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN
FGC is legal in both countries. Whilst there have been no studies, opinion suggests ~50% of Dawoodi Bohra women undergo FGC (known as Khatna), explored in the documentary “A Pinch of Skin”. The anti-Khatna movement has grown following an online petition in 2011.

MALAYSIA
One small study of Malay Muslims in five rural villages in north Malaysia found 93.5% of women had undergone FGC. The Ministry of Health called for a need to standardise the procedure, contradicting its own ban on doctors performing FGC.

OMAN
A small study found that 78% of women were cut. There is a high rate of approval of FGC from both sexes. Anecdotally, FGC appears to be common in the North and South.

INDONESIA
Small studies find prevalence rates of 70-92%. The top Muslim clerical body (MUI) ruled FGC is not mandatory but “morally recommended”. Despite banning FGC, the Ministry of Health released guidelines advising how to cut. These were apparently revoked in 2014 after international outcry, but the government’s position is unclear.
Local context

July 2015

• Hampshire 344
• 27 of these <15 years old
• Havant, New Forest and Test Valley to 2.5 per 1000
• Portsmouth and Southampton 3 per 1000
• Basingstoke and Deane 1.1 per 1000
• Rushmoor 0.9 per 1000
FGM and Mental Health

One study showed consistent rates of PTSD in women with FGM compared to adults who were abused in childhood. All but one participant remembered FGM happening as “extremely appalling and traumatizing.” More than 90% of the women described feelings of “intense fear, helplessness, horror, and severe pain.” Over 80% “still suffering from intrusive re-experiences of their circumcision.” For 78% of the subjects, FGM was performed unexpectedly.

MH problems added to by social difficulties/isolation
• poor housing
• language barriers
• poor access to healthcare

http://pb.rcpsych.org/content/pbrcpsych/early/2015/08/11/pb.bp.114.047944.full.pdf
Women may not associate FGM with experiences they are having

- Talking about FGM is Taboo
- They may have also been victims of rape, torture and conflict
- They may have had to leave families or children behind

**Symptoms might include:**

- Flashbacks
- Sleep disturbances and nightmares
- Panic attacks
- Sexual dysfunction
- Depression & Anxiety
FGM Clinics in the UK

- FGM Clinic at University College Hospital London – started 2002
- FGM Clinic at University College Hospital London – For Children
- African Women’s Clinic
- Chelsea and Westminster FGM Service – Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Trust
- Bristol Community Rose Clinic at East Trees Heath Centre
- Oxford Rose Clinic
FGM Useful Resources

• HSCB FGM documents and information

• FGM, Breast Ironing, Honour-Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

• New NHS FGM Website
  www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/safeguarding/our-work/fgm/

• Training
  Free e-Learning for health staff
  Free e-Learning through the HSCB virtual college
  Free e-learning through the home office
Thank You