

# Gauteng STI news



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## THE BOPHELO PELE MALE CIRCUMCISION PROJECT IN ORANGE FARM (SOUTH AFRICA)

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Orange Farm is a semi urban area of 25 km<sup>2</sup> in the south of Johannesburg, South Africa. Orange Farm has a population of about 150,000 inhabitants. The Bophelo Pele project, funded by the Agence Nationale de Recherches sur le SIDA (ANRS, France), aims to offer free and safe male circumcision to all adult men of this community. This project started after an initial community mobilisation in 2007.

General information on male circumcision is delivered to male and female residents of Orange Farm using local radio announcements, pamphlet distribution to every household and community meetings. Men willing to undergo circumcision, as well as women, are welcome in outreach centres located throughout the community where they receive risk reduction counselling, detailed information on male circumcision, and are offered HIV screening using rapid tests and an immediate CD4 count if they test positive for HIV infection.

Men are circumcised at least three days after counselling within the Bophelo Pele male circumcision centre located in the township. Treatment of symptomatic sexually transmitted infections is provided when necessary. Male circumcisions are performed in a room equipped with seven beds separated by curtains. Cost has been reduced to ZAR 300 per circumcision by using the forceps guided circumcision method with a surgical disposal kit, monopolar electrocautery and by optimizing the use of personnel. A surgical team is composed of one surgeon to apply the forceps, cut the foreskins, control the



### The Bophelo Pele male circumcision centre in Orange Farm

bleeding and supervise staff, as well as five nurses to administrate local anaesthesia, assist during surgery and complete the suturing. With this team composition, six to ten male circumcisions can be performed per hour, with an average surgeon time of seven and a half minutes per male circumcision and a total procedure time of 20 minutes. After surgery, participants receive oral and written post-operative instructions.

Follow-up visits are conducted in a private room at the surgical centre on day 2 and day 7 after surgery. Participants missing a follow-up visit receive phone reminders. Patient bookings for male circumcision range from 30 to 100 per day.