

*You find it hard to part with old traditions?  
 You want to protect your daughter?  
 You are affected yourself, and you have health problems?*

**For advice and help, contact**

the FEM Süd Women's Health Centre (Frauengesundheitszentrum)  
 at Kaiser Franz Josef-Spital

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Help is available by phone, by e-mail or directly in our office.

We speak Arabic, German, English and Somali.

Audio file about FGM/C in Arabian language: [goo.gl/uLTX46](http://goo.gl/uLTX46)

Health counselling for African and Arab women is financed by the City of Vienna's Women's Department (MA 57).

**Web:** [www.fem.at](http://www.fem.at), [www.frauengesundheit-wien.at](http://www.frauengesundheit-wien.at)

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# Protecting my daughter

**No** to female genital cutting  
 or mutilation  
 (FGC/FGM)



## ***What does genital cutting mean for a girl?***

Girls are still subjected to genital cutting, especially in East or West Africa and parts of Asia.

There are different forms, involving the partial or complete removal of the girl's external genital organs – the clitoral hood (prepuce), the clitoris, and/or the inner and outer vulvar lips (labia minora and majora).

## ***Female mutilation is always harmful!***

The technical term used for this practice is “female genital mutilation”, or “female genital cutting” (FGM/FGC). 200 million girls and women in the world are affected.

FGM/FGC is never harmless. Every year babies and girls die from its effects, such as blood poisoning (sepsis) and infections.

It is important to realise that no world religion demands cutting of the female genitals!

## ***How does FGM/FGC harm the girl's health?***

Genital cutting is bad for the girl's health. It causes physical and psychological harm like:

- urinary infections
- chronic inflammations
- pain in the back and abdomen (belly)
- painful menstruation
- low sexual drive
- pain during sex
- infertility (the girl cannot have babies)
- the mother and baby may die during childbirth
- anxiety (strong fears)
- depression

## ***FGM/FGC is illegal in Austria***

Under Austrian law, all forms of female genital cutting or mutilation are a criminal offence called “inflicting grievous bodily harm”. The parents are punished even if they send their daughter to another country for cutting.

## ***I protect my daughter!***

As parents, we are responsible for protecting our children from harm. FGM/FGC causes terrible physical and psychological harm. Once a girl has been cut, the damage can never be undone.

