CLAIMS:

1. A circumcision device comprising:

two jaws configured to crush a foreskin between them along an elongated crush region that is transverse to a foreskin and transverse to a general direction in which a penis being circumcised extends, the jaws being movable between a first open inoperative position and a closed operative position in which a clamping and crushing force is in use exerted on a foreskin positioned between the jaws to promote hemostasis within the elongated crush region,

a mechanism interconnecting the jaws such that they are movable between the first open inoperative position in which one end of a gap between the jaws is open to allow for introduction of a transverse foreskin to move along the jaws to a central region thereof and the closed operative position in which the mechanism interconnects the jaws at both ends thereof and the jaws exert, in use, a crushing force on foreskin within the elongated crush region,

wherein the circumcision device being includes a cutting assembly movable from one end region of the jaws towards an opposite end region thereof relative to the elongated crush region so as to be capable of traversing and severing a crushed foreskin within or adjacent to the elongated crush region, and

wherein the cutting assembly includes a carrier movable linearly along a length of one of the jaws from a first end region thereof to a second end region thereof.

2. The circumcision device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier includes a releasable stop maintaining it in a position corresponding to the first open inoperative position of the jaws.

3. The circumcision device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the jaw with which the cutting assembly is associated is in the form of a jaw assembly composed of an arm supporting the carrier and a flat surgical blade attached to the carrier with the blade being guided for movement between a guide surface of the arm and a guide surface of an insert received within the arm with a cutting edge of the blade co-operating in the closed operative position with a face of the other jaw within the elongated crush region so that the face serves as a cutting block for the blade.

4. The circumcision device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the carrier has a catch component in co-operating relationship with a complimentary co-operating catch formation on an associated jaw assembly so that the carrier becomes irreversibly locked in its terminal position at the second end region of the jaws following a cutting action to thereby inhibit

attempts at using the circumcision device for a subsequent circumcision.

5. The circumcision device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mechanism includes formations providing a hinged interconnection at a first end of the jaws wherein the hinged interconnection cannot be disengaged when the jaws are in their first or second inoperative positions or their closed operative positions.

6. The circumcision device as claimed in claim 5 wherein second ends of the jaws are interconnected by a lever assembly including an operating lever and a pivotally attached connecting lever connected at an opposite end to the second end of one jaw with the operating lever having pivot lugs that are receivable in co-operating receiving formations associated with the other jaw so that the operating lever and connecting lever can be used by engaging the pivot lugs in the co-operating receiving formations associated with the other jaw to close an opening between the ends of the two jaws after introduction of a foreskin transversely between the jaws and to move the jaws together into the closed operative position.

7. The circumcision device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the levers are configured to lock the jaws in their closed operative positions in releasable manner by means of an over-centre locking mechanism.

8. The circumcision device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the pivot lugs are receivable in the co-operating receiving formations associated with the other jaw in a non-releasable manner in order to deter a second or subsequent use of the circumcision device by providing a second open inoperative position in which the connecting lever and the operating lever substantially inhibit the introduction of a foreskin to a position between the jaws.

9. A glans penis protector comprising a handle having a proximal operating end region and a transverse glans penis engaging cover at its distal end, wherein an attachment of the handle to the glans penis engaging cover is capable of being parted so that the handle can be separated from the glans penis engaging cover during a circumcision procedure, wherein the attachment of the handle to a proximal surface of the glans penis engaging cover is located in a recess in the proximal surface of the glans penis engaging cover, and wherein the attachment of the handle to the proximal surface of the glans penis engaging cover is located in spaced recesses in the proximal surface of the glans penis engaging cover by way of a pair of spaced necks immediately adjacent the proximal surface of the glans penis engaging cover.

10. The glans penis protector as claimed in claim 9, wherein the attachment of the handle to the glans penis engaging cover is formed integral with the glans penis protector.

11. The glans penis protector as claimed in claim 9, wherein the attachment of the handle to the glans penis engaging cover is frangible.

12. The glans penis protector as claimed in claim 9, wherein the glans penis engaging cover is contoured in a direction transverse to the handle so as to co-operate with a distal end region of a glans penis in use.

13. The glans penis protector as claimed in claim 9, wherein the handle is generally flat and a width of the handle is capable of being orientated such that the proximal operating end region thereof can be temporarily accommodated in a narrow gap between two jaws of a circumcision device preparatory to circumcision.

14. The glans penis protector as claimed in claim 9, wherein an axially extending probe is provided at a proximal end of the handle with the axially extending probe having a rounded end for use in releasing adhesions to the glans penis.

15. A method of carrying out a circumcision of a foreskin of a patient using a glans penis protector as claimed in claim 9 together with a circumcision device having jaws, the method comprising:

releasing adhesions to a glans penis of a patient;

covering the glans penis with a glans penis engaging cover of the glans penis protector;

locating a portion of the foreskin of the patient to be severed over the handle of the glans penis protector;

moving the foreskin and glans penis protector transversely through an opening between the jaws of the circumcision device until the glans penis engaging cover is immediately adjacent to the jaws with the handle passing between the jaws;

parting the handle from the glans penis engaging cover so as to leave the cover on a side of the jaws opposite from said portion of the foreskin to be severed;

crushing the foreskin in an elongated crush region between the jaws;

allowing the crushed foreskin to remain in that condition for a time period selected to promote hemostasis;

severing the foreskin crushed between the jaws;

releasing the jaws; and

removing the glans penis engaging cover.

16. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the method includes releasing adhesions to the glans penis of the patient by way of a rounded end of a probe provided at a proximal end of the handle of the glans penis protector.