

Pubic hair grooming and public health. A key role for the doctor in counselling his patients?

We think there's a role of counselling for health practitioners related to the practice of hair grooming.

Despite the lack of controlled studies, it could be dangerous to deny the possibility of infectious risks related with this practice.

Even if these infections are generally not life-threatening, pubic hair removal (especially full) could be a risk factor for cutaneous sexually transmitted infections (STI) as molluscum contagiosum (MC), genital warts (GW, some types of papillomavirus), and maybe herpes. Further studies, especially controlled, would be necessary to elucidate this risk and those of bacterial infections.

The micro-traumatism induced by pubic hair removal, especially shaving, could favor this risk.

For example, we needed several decades to reconsider the gold standard of shaving before surgery. Many surgeons now prefer no depilation, chemical depilation or clipping, instead of shaving, because the micro-traumatism induced by shaving could increase the postoperative infectious risk.

So, we think that some recommendations should be reinforced, as to ask for single use or sterilized tools for pubic hair removal (spatula included) in waxing salons, or suggested, as to require medical advice when persistent pimples are observed on the pubis, to prefer partial depilation as complete, and to avoid hair removal before sexual intercourse...

These suggestions need to be improved but we believe that they may help to prevent some of the above-mentioned infections and increase our patients' awareness on the fact that full pubic hair removal, without any recommendation, is perhaps not so harmless that we let them think.

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Publication

[Full pubic hair removal: A key role for dermatologists in preventing STIs?](#)

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[Pubic hair removal: a risk factor for 'minor' STI such as molluscum contagiosum?](#)

Desruelles F, Cunningham SA, Dubois D

Sex Transm Infect. 2013 May