

Signs, Symptoms and Effects

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR BEFORE FGM HAPPENS

A girl at immediate risk of FGM may not know what's going to happen but she might talk about:

- Being taken "home" to visit family
- A special occasion to "become a woman"
- An older female relative visiting the UK

A GIRL OR WOMAN WHO'S HAD FGM MAY:

- Have difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spend longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet
- Have unusual behaviour after an absence from school or college
- Be particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear

THINGS YOU MAY NOTICE

If you're worried that a child is being abused, watch out for any individual behaviour

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| • Withdrawn | • Problems sleeping | • Changes in eating habits |
| • Suddenly behaves differently | • Eating disorders | • Obsessive behaviour |
| • Anxious | • Wets the bed | • Nightmares |
| • Clingy | • Soils clothes | • Drugs |
| • Depressed | • Takes risks | • Alcohol |
| • Aggressive | • Misses school | • Self harm |

THE EFFECTS OF FGM

FGM Can be extremely painful and dangerous it can cause:

- Severe pain
- Shock
- Bleeding
- Infection such as tetanus, HIV and hepatitis B & C
- Organ damage
- Blood loss and infections that can cause death in some cases

LONG TERM EFFECTS

Girls and women who have had FGM may have problems that continue through adulthood including:

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| • Difficulties urinating or incontinence | • Kidney damage and possible failure | • Complications during pregnancy and childbirth |
| • Frequent or chronic vaginal pelvic or Urinary infections | • Cysts and abscesses | • Emotional and mental problems |
| • Menstrual problems | • Infertility | |

The following is a useful summary of the FGM mandatory reporting duty:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/496415/6_1639_HO_SP_FGM_mandatory_reporting_Fact_sheet_Web.pdf