

**Table 3 Medical students' personal beliefs and attitudes regarding female genital mutilation (FGM) by sex**

Statements <sup>a</sup>	Affirmative responses (those who agreed) (n = 298)	Males (n = 193)	Females (n = 105)	$\chi^2$ (P-value)
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	
FGM:				
prevents a baby's death (0.037)*	17 (5.7)	15 (7.8)	2 (1.9)	4.352
ensures a girl's virginity	61 (20.5)	44 (22.8)	17 (16.2)	1.824 (0.177)
increases chances of marriage	48 (16.1)	36 (18.7)	12 (11.4)	2.626 (0.105)
is an essential part of our culture (0.028)*	101 (33.9)	74 (38.3)	27 (25.7)	4.840
prevents the external genitalia from growing (0.031)*	72 (24.2)	39 (20.2)	33 (31.4)	4.673
helps the genitalia to be kept clean	105 (35.2)	74(38.3)	31 (29.5)	2.317 (0.128)
makes a girl more beautiful (0.007)*	59 (19.8)	47 (24.4)	12 (11.4)	7.153
prevents promiscuity in girls	147 (49.3)	98 (50.8)	49 (46.7)	0.460 (0.498)
maintains a girl's chastity (0.019)*	141 (47.3)	101 (52.3)	40 (38.1)	5.529
is a religious obligation	91 (30.5)	60 (31.1)	31 (29.5)	0.078 (0.779)
is performed to please a husband (0.015)*	53 (17.8)	42 (21.8)	11 (10.5)	5.923
improves the fertility of a woman	33 (11.1)	26 (13.5)	7 (6.7)	3.198 (0.074)
in its mild form (cutting only the clitoris) does not lead to any complications; it is therefore acceptable	153 (51.3)	95 (49.2)	58 (55.2)	0.985 (0.321)
In its severe form (cutting all external genitalia) is harmless; people should be				