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KZN Health MEC Dr Sbongiseni Dhlomo (right) and the inventor of the Tara Klamp, Malaysian Dr Gurcram Singh (on Dhlomo's left), with health officials.

## Circumcision clamp inventor in KZN to train doctors, nurses

### CHRIS NDALISO

THE INVENTOR of the Tara Klamp circumcision device maintains that it is the answer to all circumcisions, but whoever performs the operations needs to be trained.

Dr Gurcram Singh and a seven-member delegation from Malaysian visited KwaZulu-Natal to give advice on medical male circumcision.

The delegates, who arrived in the province on Sunday, are scheduled to visit a number of hospitals to train doctors and nursing staff.

"I've been involved in medical male circumcision for the past 30 years. I have closely monitored how we perform the operation in theatres and clinics, where there are chances of open wounds getting infected, leading to serious complications.

"That's when I thought of circumcision with no chances of any contamination passing through the wound or skin, and I came up with the Tara Klamp in the early 90s," said Singh.

The device was manufactured and marketed in 1996.

It has been surrounded by controversy re-

cently, with reports stating that using it resulted in a high complication rate.

Dr Singh said the Tara Klamp was manufactured to be used throughout the world to perform safe and painless circumcisions.

He said the reported complications are the result of a lack of training in how to use the device.

"No surgeon, no matter how smart they are, can use the Tara Klamp without training. That's why we encourage the thorough training of doctors before they can use the Klamp," said Singh.

"It is the best tool to perform clean and

harmless circumcisions."

Health MEC Dr Sbongiseni Dhlomo said solidarity and close co-operation among individuals and countries is a fundamental characteristic of public health.

He said there are no boundaries for illnesses and health risks.

"No country is too big or too small, too rich or poor to make a contribution to global public health levels," said Dhlomo.

The Malaysian delegation will educate local doctors and nurses on how the device should be used to minimise complications.

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