Transgender Surgery & Christian Anthropology

Deacon Patrick W. Lappert, MD
Birmingham in Alabama
256-303-8509
The Challenge

- “Male and female He created them” has been replaced by a confusion of exceptional cases.
- Aggressive re-characterization of the nature of the human person.
- Academia, entertainment, law, and even at church.
Finally and above all, man has made stupendous progress in the domination and rational organization of the forces of nature, such that he tends to extend this domination to his own total being; to his body, to psychical life, to social life, and even to the laws which regulate the transmission of life. ~ Humanae vitae 2
The Challenge

• Understand the subject.
• Fluent in the language.
• No shocking surprises.
• Patient, but insisting upon the truth
Human Nature

• The human person: body and spirit together comprising a single nature.

• By our nature we are made for the other.

• Possessed of an intellect by which we can know the good, the true, and the beautiful.

• Possessed of a will by which we can choose the good, the true, and the beautiful; the moral life.
Human nature

- The moral life: built upon foundational truths.
- Not arbitrary.
- Not repressive, but rather affirming of the intrinsic dignity of the person.
What is a human being?
Human Nature

- The human body
- The "reproductive system", and the fulness of humanity.
- Dimorphism and complementarity.
- The human family is in our nature.
The Image and Likeness of God
Human Nature

- Why must we consider first the nature of the human person?
- Defines the “end” of medical and surgical care.
- Human nature is that which is perfected by the life of grace.
- That which is perfectly realized in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.
Modern “Gender”

- A confusion of biology, psychology, and political science.
- Use of biology to explain psychology
- Political terms to explain the emotional life.
- Shifting from biological determinism, to freedom of expression.
- Language of “science” counterpoised with rejection of scientific evidence as “tool of oppression”.

Monday, November 5, 18
“Great Expectations”

• Science (separate from faith): A “pure” thing.
  • Deeper, “more evolved”
• Technology: domination of nature
  • Capability to modify the person in any way that “choice” demands.
• Progress: irresistible power of history leading to liberation from the oppression of the past. Transgenders no longer “outcasts”!
Transgender Language

- Outgrowth of “gender identity” principles.
- Relationship to the “sexual revolution”.
- The divorce of the two aspects of human sexual union.
- Catholic anthropology vs. materialistic anthropology.
The human person is materially caused, materially driven, and his highest aim and happiness is materially defined.
Psychological Language

- Seeking to give a complete explanation of human behavior, without recourse to theology.
- Man as merely a particularly complicated animal.
- Inherent drives common to animal life.
- Assorted coping mechanisms to deal with the frustration of those drives. Some are pathological = neurosis / psychosis
- “The Pleasure Principle” ~ Freud
Psychological Language

- The search for “pleasure” is the central instinct:
- Sexual pleasure seen as the zenith.
- The central element in character development:
  - Sexual drive, and sexual experiences are seen as the prime movers in the development of personality and social capacities.
  - Good (pleasurable) experiences = good personality development.
Psychological Language

- Human sexuality is viewed from the standpoint of the one person, their needs, and the satisfaction of those needs.

- Any moral perspective on human sexuality seen as an arbitrary social restriction, or “taboo”, without foundational truth.

- Belief that much psychopathology can be avoided by changing society, and ignoring moral questions.
“Adult sexuality” is an endlessly variable, personal expression of individuality, the purpose of which is to produce joy for that person. It sometimes involves other people, and with alarming frequency, is known to produce other people.
Modern Sexuality Sumarized
(Lappert’s Axioms)

“Adult sexuality”, is the developmental result of “childhood sexuality”, just as adult language is the developmental result of childhood language. For this reason, it has become the habit of psychologists, and teachers to talk to children about “adult” sexual activity.
Recommended for 4-8 y.o. children

Recommended for 7-10 y.o. children

Recommended for 9 y.o. children

Monday, November 5, 18
"I like to say that I'm a girl stuck in a boy's body."

Lia, age 9

#GrowingUpTrans
Shaping the Conversation, &
Grooming a Generation
Making Life Better with Plastic Surgery

- When you “don’t feel right, because something “doesn’t look right”.
- Aesthetics or Reconstruction
Managing the Unseen Wound

- Profound sorrow, anger, anxiety.
- Seeking a material (aesthetic) explanation and remedy.
Body Dysmorphic Disorders

- Broad category of disorders of misperception about physical appearance
  - Anorexia
  - BDD/Aesthetic surgery patients
  - Seeking limb amputations etc.
The science and ethics of voluntary amputation

Should amputation be offered as a treatment to people suffering from Body Integrity Identity Disorder?
Body Dysmorphic Disorder

- Type of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
- Depressive presentation
- Social isolation. “Outcast”

- Treatment
  - SSRIs, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
Gender Dysphoria

• The unhappiness associated with the condition because:
  • “I don’t look the way I know I should”
  • “The world does not accept me as I know I really am”

• Social isolation due to:
  • Incongruous behavior
  • Secret life with associated shame.
Transgender

- Obsessive thinking with varying degrees of “dysphoria”
- Perceiving something that is not objectively there:
  - Delusional thinking
- Errors of assumption
Criteria For Delusion

• Karl Jaspers in *General Psychopathology* (1913) The criteria are:

  • certainty (held with absolute conviction)
  • incorrigibility (not changeable by compelling counterargument or proof to the contrary)
  • impossibility or falsity of content (implausible, bizarre or patently untrue)
Co-morbidities:

• Alcohol and drug abuse, depression, incarceration, homelessness, high rate of suicidal ideation.

• Variable in Expression:
  • Private stress management by cross-dressing
  • Public, anonymous cross-sex persona, including sexual contact (sometimes prostitution).

• Transitioning in stages.
Biological Language

- Seeks to establish the material causation for the psychological instincts/drives
- Genetic, neuroanatomic, endocrine, etc.
- Seeks to understand the biological basis for “gender”
- Sexual dimorphism/polymorphism vs. social construct and learned behaviors
Biological Language

- “Evolution” words applied to human sexual functioning.
- Searching for the “adaptive advantage” of fruitless sexual activity.
- The problem of reconciling a Darwinian view of the human person, and a putative inherited behavior that is annoyingly maladaptive.
- The hope: genetic trait of animal life would silence moral arguments.
Biological Determinism vs. The Moral Life
Biological Language

• “Isn’t there a genetic explanation for “transgender?”

• “We learned in school that there are many genetically caused examples of people who are somewhere in between “man” and “woman”.

• Klinefelter’s Syndrome

• Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS)

• “That is what I have. I am “intersex”, and I choose to be.....”
Biological “Intersex” (Hermaphroditism)

Klinefelter syndrome

- Lower IQ than sibs
- Tall stature
- Poor muscle tone
- Reduced secondary sexual characteristics
- Gynaecomastia (male breasts)
- Small testes/infertility
Clinical Support for Intersex Persons

- Assessment: Including genital ambiguity, problems with voiding etc.
- Planning based upon “sexual assignment”.
Gender Assignment Surgery
(ambiguous genitalia)

• Seeks to remedy structural problems that interfere with voiding.

• Seeks to establish an arrangement of tissue that would make sexual intercourse possible.

• Make reproduction possible only in cases of structural problems of shape, size, and patency.
So...is it biological?

- Genetic, like Klinefelter or AIS?
  - No genetic marker, no mutation.
  - Normal male or female karyotype
- Hormonal?
  - Hormone levels entirely normal for age/sex matched controls
- Anatomical?
  - Brain scans: MRI, PET Scan etc.
  - No structure/activity that mimics opposite sex.
Nature v. Nurture

• Speculation among "sexologists" working in Intersex Clinics.

• "Gender Identity" is:
  • Malleable, or "fluid"
  • Socially determined
  • Typically produced by "repressive" processes
The “Science” of Gender

Dr. Alfred Kinsey

Dr. Harry Benjamin

Dr. John Money
Nature v. Nurture

- Difficulty in separating the vague and as yet not demonstrated genetic influences from social/cultural influences.

- Database skewed by selection bias among genetically/developmentally abnormal patients.
The Twin Study

- The “gold standard” for exclusion of biological determinism (genetic).
- Monozygotic twins raised in different social circumstances.
The Index Case
John Money, PhD
Sexologist in the Intersex Clinic
Johns Hopkins

- Convinces parents to raise their son as a girl.
  - "Socialize" strenuously as a girl
  - Castrate, and administer estrogen
  - Ultimately use reconstructive surgery to produce a neo-vagina.
Published Results in “Peer Reviewed Journals”

- Papers and presentations based upon “long term follow up”.
- “Successful” in every way.
- Torrent of “scientific literature” re: gender roles/identity etc.
- Political dimension
The Reimer Twins
“Scientific” Basis of Gender Politics

- Gender “assignment” is a process of repression.
- Forces persons into “binary” model of sexual expression.
- Sexual expression is a form of political expression.
- “Dr. Money’s twin study proves this conclusively!”
Annual Visits to John Money, PhD

- Expected result further drives the intervention.
- Photographs them as he “instructs” them in “sex-play”.
- Fear and anxiety
Truth

- Was eventually given the truth at age 15.
- Enthusiastically embraces boyhood.
The Experiment is Ended

• Hormone replacement due to castration.
• Surgical efforts
• The silence of John Money, PhD
David the Man

Husband, and adoptive father of three children
David the Man

- Battle with depression.
- Financial difficulties
- Wife leaves him after 14 years.
- Brother dies of drug overdose.
David Reimer  1965- 2004
The Nexus

- Catholic Anthropology

&

- Plastic/ Reconstructive Surgery
A Quick Review of Plastic Surgery

- The oldest form of surgery
- Ear reconstruction- India
- Nasal reconstruction- Italy
- Restoration of the social outcast.
Sushruta- 7th Century BC India
The Mutilation of Emperor Justinian II "Rhinotmetos" 695 AD
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

- Basic Principles:
  - Establishment or Restoration
  - Form and Function
  - Based upon a thorough understanding of the nature of the missing or injured part, and its relationship to the person.
  - Directed at the “perfection” of the nature of the human person.
Restoration

• Lost due to trauma, or surgical management of malignancy, infection, etc.

• Missing at birth, due to developmental anomalies, or in-utero events.
Missing from trauma

- Adult male: traumatic amputation of non-dominant thumb
- Needs prehensile, helping hand with good grip and fine “key pinch” functions.
Restoration

- Degree of functional restoration is dictated by the intrinsic natural function of the lost part

- Hand:
  - Grasping, pinching, stabilizing, pushing, dominant vs. helping.

- Goals are tailored to the life of the patient
Congenital Cleft Palate

- Congenital malformation of the face with varying degrees of palatal integrity
- Feeding difficulty
- Speech problems
- Hearing problems
- Dental problems
The Cost of Reconstruction

- What will be lost, or compromised in the course of reconstruction?
- “Donor defect”.
- Risk vs. benefit
“Transitioning”
(Progressive Expression of Condition)

- Obsessive thoughts leading to compulsive behaviors.
- Interferes with living in the present moment.
- Managing anxiety by unhealthy means.
- Withdrawal, cross-sex dressing/acting in secret.
Transitioning

- Secretive, dysfunctional life leads to conflicts with family, and peers. Causes “dysphoria”.
- Psychological counseling: the broad and the narrow.
- APA: Presumes that “gender non-conforming” is the essential and true nature of the person, therefore health is to be found in giving full expression to the subjectively perceived persona.
Transitioning

- Psychological Testing of “maleness and femaleness” (objective standard).
- Cross-sex identity development: clothing, name, persona.
- Endocrine management
  - Puberty blocking in pre-pubertal children; cross-sex hormones.
- Voice training, hair management.
“Providers, patient and parents were ready to start hormone therapy with testosterone to help him align his body with who he had always known he was on the inside.”

“While gender-related healthcare can be expensive in the short term, it is recognized to lead directly to improved health outcomes and long-term cost savings.” ~CHOP
Your first visit to the Washington University Transgender Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital will take about 60-90 minutes. You'll meet with one of our physicians for an informational discussion about age-appropriate therapies (depending on if the patient has started puberty.) You may be referred to a mental health provider for ongoing psychosocial support and assessment, if indicated. Records from patient's primary care physicians should be sent prior to the first visit, so our doctors can review them for pre-existing conditions that may be affected by hormone therapy.
-Education regarding gender dysphoria and its possible treatments. Gender dysphoria refers to the distress that may accompany the incongruence between one’s gender identity and one’s assigned sex at birth.

-Administering pubertal blockers, which delay puberty and suppress unwanted and irreversible secondary sexual characteristics; for example, deepening of the voice and facial hair for transgender females and breast development for transgender males.

-Administering cross sex (gender-affirming) hormones that make a person’s physical body match their gender identity. These may begin between the ages of 14 and 16 after patients meet readiness and eligibility criteria.
Puberty blocking drugs
Cross-sex hormones
Absence of medical evidence
Human experimentation
Irreversible effects on:
  Fertility
  Neuropsychiatric/ musculoskeletal development
Desistance data. 9% vs. 100%
Transitioning

- **Surgery**
  - Secondary surgeries: hair, forehead, nose, jaw, neck, breast. Euphemism: “Top Surgery”.
  - Definitive and final: castration and vaginoplasty, or hysterectomy/oophorectomy and phalloplasty. “Bottom Surgery”.
PSEN University: Gender Affirming Surgeries 101 - Webinar (Includes Gender Affirming 101 Series)

Member Price $250.00
Non-Member Price $325.00
Members Save $75.00
In Stock

Product Description

Presented by: Loren Schechter, MD

About this Course:
This course is a live webinar CME course to be held on April 18th 2018 at 7pm cst. This course also includes the 2017 PSEN University: Gender Affirming 101 for Surgeons - Video Series which features top webinar recordings from a
The Surgery

- Top surgery is largely reversible.
- Bottom surgery is irreversible. Fully functioning genital organs are mutilated in order to produce a counterfeit form.
- Form has primacy
- Function is destroyed (donor morbidity)
Grave Matter

- Willful sterilization destroys the procreative aspect.
- Simultaneous degradation of the unitive aspect.
- Major loss of sensory apparatus, and persistence of the native neural “map” in the brain.
Grave Matter

- “Banking” of ova and sperm for future in vitro and proxy pregnancies.
- Objectification of children; the “right to a child”.
- Link between “reproductive technology”, & “gender affirmation medicine”.

Monday, November 5, 18
Plea For Mercy

- Because self-identified transgender persons suffer greatly
  - High rate of substance abuse.
  - High rate of homelessness.
  - High rate of suicide attempt:
    - 18yo - 55yo steady at approx. 40% risk.
"The only way I will rest in peace is if one day transgender people aren’t treated the way I was, they’re treated like humans, with valid feelings and human rights. Gender needs to be taught about in schools, the earlier the better. My death needs to mean something" - Leelah Alcorn

UK: 48% of trans people under 26 attempt suicide (2014)
US: 41% of trans people attempt suicide (2014)
Canada: 43% of trans people attempt suicide (2012)

The Appeal From Sentiment

Carla Wood Alcorn    Doug Alcorn

Conservative Christian Parents Triggers Trans Teen Suicide
Compulsion To “Mercy”

• “Everything must be done to help these persons live their new identity”

• Home, school, work
  
  • Names, pronouns, bathrooms, etc.

• Health insurance directed toward transitioning, not treatment of OCD.

• Attempts to diagnose and treat are labeled “hate speech”.

Monday, November 5, 18
So...it is working, right?
Evidence Based Medicine

- Over the years, many small retrospective studies.
- Inconsistent criteria for inclusion of patients and the selection of controls
- Much self-selection bias; high drop out rate.
- Small samples and short follow-up
- Varying degrees of “success”. Ranging from “improved in gender dysphoria” to continued elevated psychiatric hospitalization and suicide attempts and death.
The Swedish Study

- Population cohort study over 30 year period.
- Age and sex matched cohort.
- Data from consistent national database.
- Standardized reporting for identity change, hospitalization, psychiatric diagnosis and co-morbidities, and mortality.
Long-Term Follow-Up of Transsexual Persons Undergoing Sex Reassignment Surgery: Cohort Study in Sweden

Cecilia Dhejne, 1 Paul Lichtenstein, 2 Marcus Boman, 2 Anna L. V. Johansson, 2 Niklas Långström, 2,3 and Mikael Landén 1,2,4,*

James Scott, Editor

Abstract

Context

The treatment for transsexualism is sex reassignment, including hormonal treatment and surgery aimed at making the person's body as congruent with the opposite sex as possible. There is a dearth of long term, follow-up studies after sex reassignment.
Table S1. Risk of various outcomes in sex-reassigned subjects in Sweden compared to population controls matched for birth year and birth sex.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>No. of events</th>
<th>All sex-reassignment persons (N=324)</th>
<th>Male-to-female only (N=191)</th>
<th>Female-to-male only (N=133)</th>
<th>Adjusted$^*$ hazard ratio (95% CI)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any death</td>
<td>27 (17/10)</td>
<td>2.9 (1.9-4.5)</td>
<td>2.6 (1.5-4.5)</td>
<td>3.7 (1.8-7.7)</td>
<td>2.8 (1.8-4.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.4 (1.4-4.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.8 (1.8-7.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death by suicide</td>
<td>10 (6/4)</td>
<td>19.1 (6.5-55.9)</td>
<td>13.9 (3.9-49.6)</td>
<td>40.0 (4.5-357.9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death by cardiovascular</td>
<td>9 (6/3)</td>
<td>2.6 (1.2-5.4)</td>
<td>2.3 (0.9-5.7)</td>
<td>3.2 (0.9-11.9)</td>
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<td>disease</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Death by neoplasma</td>
<td>8 (4/4)</td>
<td>2.1 (1.0-4.6)</td>
<td>1.7 (0.6-4.9)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.2 (2.1-4.9)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.2 (1.3-4.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any psychiatric hospitalisation‡</td>
<td>64 (43/21) [Note: N/A Not applicable due to sparse data.]</td>
<td>4.2 (3.1-5.6)</td>
<td>4.7 (3.2-6.7)</td>
<td>3.4 (2.1-5.6)</td>
<td>2.8 (2.0-3.9)</td>
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<td>Substance misuse</td>
<td>22 (14/8)</td>
<td>3.0 (1.9-4.9)</td>
<td>2.8 (1.6-5.1)</td>
<td>3.5 (1.6-7.8)</td>
<td>1.7 (1.0-3.1)</td>
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<td>4.9 (0.7-3.1)</td>
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<td>10.4 (0.9-5.8)</td>
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<td>Suicide attempt</td>
<td>29 (22/7)</td>
<td>7.6 (4.7-12.4)</td>
<td>15.4 (7.9-30.2)</td>
<td>2.9 (1.3-6.8)</td>
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<td>19 (0.7-4.8)</td>
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<td>Any accident</td>
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<td>1.2 (1.0-3.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any crime</td>
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<td>1.2 (0.8-1.7)</td>
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<td>8 (0.5-1.2)</td>
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<td>0.8 (2.5-6.9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
<td>14 (8/6)</td>
<td>2.7 (1.5-4.9)</td>
<td>1.8 (0.8-3.7)</td>
<td>9.9 (3.2-30.7)</td>
<td>1.5 (0.8-3.0)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 (0.3-2.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1 (2.1-24.4)</td>
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</table>

Notes: N/A Not applicable due to sparse data. *Adjusted for immigrant status and psychiatric morbidity up to baseline. ‡ Hospitalisations for gender identity disorder were excluded.
A study of the studies.
-Examination of 500 papers in: epidemiology, genetics, endocrinology, psychiatry, neuroscience, embryology, and pediatrics
“The scientific definition of biological sex is, for almost all human beings, clear, binary, and stable, reflecting an underlying biological reality that is not contradicted by exceptions to sex-typical behavior, and cannot be altered by surgery or social conditioning.”

~ Lawrence S. Mayer, M.B., M.S., Ph.D.
“The notion that a two-year-old, having expressed thoughts or behaviors identified with the opposite sex, can be labeled for life as transgender has absolutely no support in science.

Indeed, it is iniquitous to believe that all children who have gender-atypical thoughts or behavior at some point in their development, particularly before puberty, should be encouraged to become transgender.”

~Lawrence S. Mayer, M.B.,M.S., Ph.D.
## Instructions on lying

- "TL;DR find out what they want to hear if they’re gonna give you T and then tell them just that. It’s about getting treatment, not about being true to those around you. It’s not their business and a lot of time doctors will screw stuff up for you.”

- "...Get a story ready in your head, and as suggested keep the lie to a minimum. And only for stuff that can’t be verified. Like how you were feeling, but was too afraid to tell anyone including your family.”

- "I’d also look up the DSM for the diagnostic criteria for transgender and make sure your story fits it, assuming your psych follows it.”

## Urgency to transition

- "...If you don’t do it when you are young. You’ll be miserable and unhappy with your body for the rest of your life.”

## Vague and nonspecific symptoms called signs of GD

- "Signs of indirect gender dysphoria: 1. Continual difficulty with simply getting through the day. 2. A sense of misalignment, disconnect, or estrangement from your own emotions. 3. A feeling of just going through the motions in everyday life, as if you’re always reading from a script. 4. A seeming pointlessness to your life, and no sense of any real meaning or ultimate purpose. 5. Knowing you’re somehow different from everyone else, and wishing you could be normal like them...”

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a. [https://www.reddit.com/r/asktransgender/comments/2n5qi/having_a_psycho eval soon/bottom-comments](https://www.reddit.com/r/asktransgender/comments/2n5qi/having_a_psycho eval soon/bottom-comments)
b. [https://www.reddit.com/r/asktransgender/comments/44gf7e/is_it_best_to_be_completely_honest_or_lie_a/](https://www.reddit.com/r/asktransgender/comments/44gf7e/is_it_best_to_be_completely_honest_or_lie_a/)
c. [https://www.reddit.com/r/asktransgender/comments/4hwzr/what_things_should_i_never_tell_my_psycho lessor/](https://www.reddit.com/r/asktransgender/comments/4hwzr/what_things_should_i_never_tell_my_psycho lessor/)
d. [https://www.reddit.com/r/asktransgender/comments/3p9r94/are_the_final_stages_of_questioning_need_som/#bottom-comments](https://www.reddit.com/r/asktransgender/comments/3p9r94/are_the_final_stages_of_questioning_need_som/#bottom-comments)

e. [https://transgender teensurvivalguide.tumblr.com/post/62036014416/that-was-dysphoria-b-signs-and-symptoms-of](https://transgender teensurvivalguide.tumblr.com/post/62036014416/that-was-dysphoria-b-signs-and-symptoms-of)
Britain’s Youngest Patient

Although Ms Cooper underwent a thorough psychological assessment and counseling at Hull Royal Infirmary prior to starting her sex change therapy she has suffered such torment living as a woman that she has tried to commit suicide twice.
RYAN T. ANDERSON

When Harry Became Sally

Responding to the Transgender Moment
Summary

• Not a new condition. OCD w/ BDD.
• Psychological / Spiritual wound.
• Ordinary childhood role playing being sexualized / treated with puberty blockers!
• In many cases, permanently mutilating surgeries.
• A huge engine of public opinion, policy, and enforcement aimed at the family, and the church.
Transgender persons are at high risk for abuse and self harm.

Care must be based in a true human anthropology.

Missteps must be anticipated

Protection from “blind guides”.

Fluency in the language, and knowledge about the erroneous science will permit witnessing with patience and fraternal love.
Let Us Pray

God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe, in every age you call man to develop and use his gifts for the good of others. With Saint Joseph as our example and guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen
Oh glorious martyrs of Christ, Saints Cosmas and Damian, you gave your lives for the love of God, benefiting your fellow man, and crowning your martyrdom with an open and loyal profession of your faith. You taught us to love God above all things, and to love our fellow man as ourselves, professing always, and without fear, the religion of Jesus. Augmenting amongst the faithful populace many miracles, you are glorious indeed. Through your intercession, which brings about deliverance of these miracles, we pray to you for your aid in all things. May your patronage never be far from us in the illness of our body and soul.

Oh great protectors, Saints Cosmas and Damian, assist us with your love and free us from all evils. Amen
Let Us Pray

Lord,
you made Saint Ambrose an outstanding teacher of the Catholic faith and gave him the courage of an apostle. Raise up in your Church more leaders after your own heart, to guide us with courage and wisdom. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives nad reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
Let us Pray
Almighty God, whose deacon Vincent, upheld by you, was not terrified by threats nor overcome by torments: Strengthen us to endure all adversity with invincible and steadfast faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen

St. Vincent of Saragossa
Let Us Pray

God our Father, source of strength for all your saints; you led Paul Miki and his companions through the suffering of the cross to the joy of eternal life. May their prayers give us courage to be loyal until death in professing our faith. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
O God, almighty Father, you have consecrated us to the work of bringing our brothers and sisters to the life of grace; there to grow in that perfection of our nature which leads to eternal life. Grant unto us, O Lord, an unswerving devotion to the service of those suffering from wounds that keep them from that fullness of life which you intend for all of us. Do not allow us to be misled by the deceptions of a world that has lost sight of you, and help us to follow in the obedience of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever, and ever. Amen

Monday, November 5, 18
In a first, the Pentagon plans to pay for a transgender soldier's gender transition surgery
The Challenge

- Evangelizing people who are being relentlessly mislead concerning human sexuality.
- In need of catechesis at all levels.
- In need of pastoral sensitivity to particular wounds.
- In need of the sacraments.

Bl. John Henry Cardinal Newman
Plea For Mercy

- For The Children!
- To prevent suicide!
Let Us Pray

O Mary, Powerful Virgin; thou art the mighty and glorious protector of the Church; Thou art the marvelous Help of Christians; Thou art terrible as an army in battle array; Thou alone hast destroyed every heresy in the whole world. In the midst of our struggles, our anguish, and our distress, defend us from the power of the enemy, and at the hour of death, receive our souls into Paradise.

Amen
Transgender Surgery and Christian Anthropology

Deacon Patrick W. Lappert, MD
Birmingham in Alabama
256-303-8509