





ART for Transgender and Gender Diverse Patients

Molly B Moravek, MD, MPH
Associate Professor
Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Department of Urology







Disclosures:

• Stock Option Holder (Individual stocks/Stock options; diversified mutual funds do not need to be disclosed):

NUVO Pharmaceuticals

Learning Outcomes

- 1.Discuss the current state of knowledge on the effect of genderaffirming hormones on current and future reproductive capacity.
- 2.Develop ART plans for transgender and gender diverse patients to minimize dysphoria during treatment.
- 3.Identify ways in which the clinical space can be more inclusive and welcoming to gender diverse patients.





Case

- Jason is a 23yo, assigned female at birth, who presents to your clinic with his fiancé Kate (a cisgender woman) to discuss fertility preservation prior to starting testosterone
- They plan to have children in 7-8 years using Jason's eggs, donor sperm, and Kate carrying the pregnancy. They want a big family
- You walk them through the process, including costs, and they tell you they would need
 to use all of the money they have saved for their wedding
- They want to know if they need to do that, or if it is okay to wait until they actually want to start their family and have saved money again



Shifting Epidemiology

Increasing Prevalence

- ~1.3 million US adults
 - Transgender individuals more likely to be non-white, below the poverty line, and less likely to attend college
- US teens: 300,000
 - Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Census Bureau now collecting SOGI





Increasing Visibility

- Transgender celebrities
- Increased research focus

Bathroom bills

- Military ban
- CDC banned words



Demand for transgender health care services will continue to increase

- Increasing social acceptance
- Increasing economic access
- Increasing legal access

Major limiting factor: availability of high quality care



'Actually there's nothing wrong with me, but by the time I see the doctor there probably will be.'

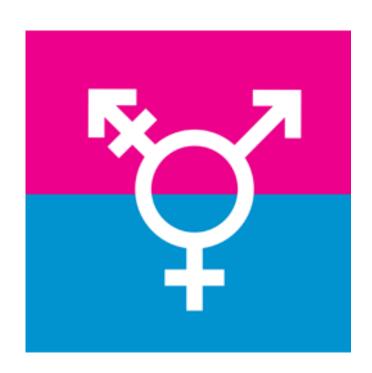


Gender-Affirming Treatment



Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy – Overview

- Transgender Men:
 - Testosterone IM, SQ, transdermal
 - Adjuvant therapies rarely needed
 - Male range serum E2 and T levels
- Transgender Women:
 - Estradiol PO, IM, transdermal
 - Anti-androgens spironolactone, finasteride
 - Female range serum E2 and T levels





Peri-Pubertal Children

• There is no role for hormone therapy prior to puberty

Gender dysphoria in adolescence likely to persist

- Gender dysphoria often worsens with onset of puberty
- No agreed upon age for starting hormone therapy



Peri-Pubertal Children

- GnRH analogues ideally initiated in tanner stage 2-3
 - Prevents development of unwanted secondary sex characteristics
- Progestins for menstrual suppression in postpubertal transmasculine youth not ready for hormone therapy

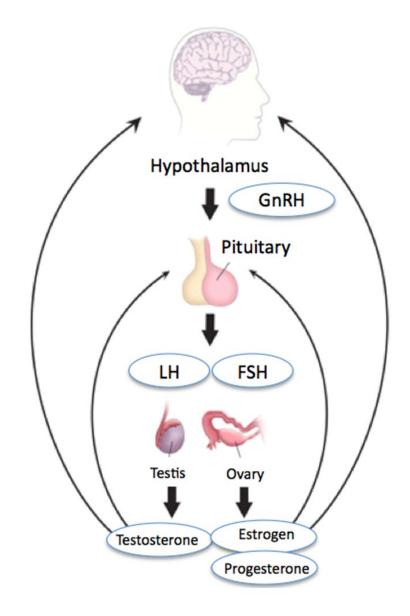


Figure 7.12: Procedures among transgender men

0%

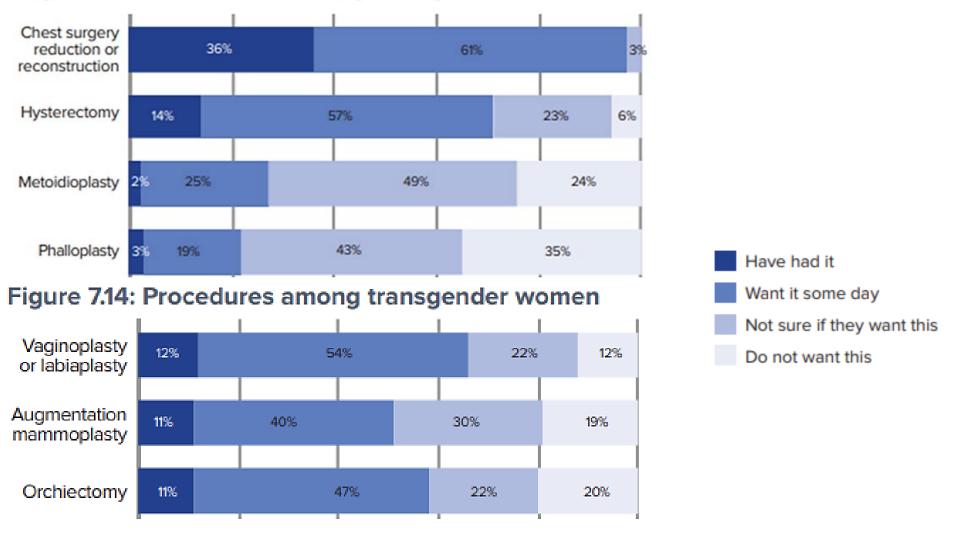
20%

40%

60%

80%

100%





Reproduction in TGD Individuals



Effect of Gender-Affirming Tx on Fertility

- The effect of long-term gender affirming hormone therapy on future reproductive capacity is <u>largely unknown</u>
 - Limited human studies are observational in nature, mostly assess short-term therapy, and have mixed results
- Even less is known about fertility in individuals who had puberty halted with GnRH agonists prior to starting hormone therapy
- Many gender affirming surgeries remove the gonads, and are therefore sterilizing



PUBMED Search (1/12/24)



"cancer and fertility"

=19,836

"transgender and fertility"

=351



Medical Society Recommendations

ASRM

- "Providers should offer fertility preservation options to individuals before gender transition"
- "...ensure that transgender patients who seek fertility services are informed about...the lack of data about long-term outcomes"

Endocrine Society

 "All individuals seeking genderaffirming medical treatment should receive information and counsel on options for fertility preservation prior to initiating puberty suppression in adolescents and prior to treating with hormonal therapy in both adolescents and adults"

WPATH Guidelines

"Health care professionals... should discuss reproductive options with patients prior to initiation of these medical treatments for gender dysphoria."



Standards of Care

for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health



Psychosocial Data



- ~50% transgender people express a desire to have children
- ~40% transgender men would consider gamete cryopreservation
- Transgender men with children score better on mental health scales, and transgender women with children have a lower suicide risk
- 24-36% transgender adolescents desire biologic parenthood
 - >25% "did not know"



Utilization

 There seems to be low utilization of fertility preservation by TGNB persons undergoing medical or surgical transition

• Studies in transgender youth: 2-5% pursue fertility preservation despite counseling (all assigned male at birth)

TRANSGENDER MEN

- Partner with sperm:
 - Willing/able to carry pregnancy—intercourse/IUI
 - Not willing/able to carry pregnancy—IVF with gestational carrier
- No partner with sperm:
 - Willing/able to carry pregnancy—donor insemination
 - Not willing/able to carry pregnancy IVF to fertilize own eggs (donor sperm) and have partner or gestational carrier carry pregnancy
- Fertility preservation only:
 - Oocyte cryopreservation (postpubertal)
 - Ovarian tissue cryopreservation (pre- or postpubertal)

TRANSGENDER WOMEN

- Partner with ovaries/uterus:
 - Partner willing to carry pregnancy intercourse/IUI
 - Partner not willing/able to carry pregnancy IVF with gestational carrier
- No partner with ovaries/uterus:
 - Egg donation with gestational carrier

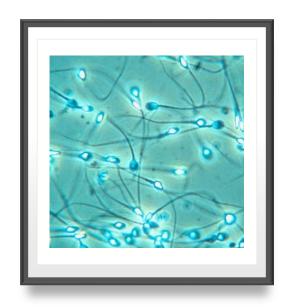
- Fertility preservation only:
 - Sperm banking (postpubertal)
 - Testicular tissue cryopreservation (prepubertal)

TRANSGENDER MEN	TRANSGENDER WOMEN
 Partner with sperm: Willing/able to carry pregnancy—intercourse/IUI Not willing/able to carry pregnancy—IVF with gestational carrier 	 Partner with ovaries/uterus: Partner willing to carry pregnancy – intercourse/IUI Partner not willing/able to carry pregnancy – IVF with gestational carrier
 No partner with sperm: Willing/able to carry pregnancy—donor insemination Not willing/able to carry pregnancy – IVF to fertilize own eggs (donor sperm) and have partner or gestational carrier carry pregnancy 	 No partner with ovaries/uterus: Egg donation with gestational carrier
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Fertility Considerations in Transfeminine Patients

Histologic Data

- Estradiol exposure leads to:
 - Smaller seminiferous tubules
 - Abnormal appearance of Sertoli and Leydig cells
 - Fatty degeneration of connective tissue
 - Impaired spermatogenesis (maturation arrest)
 - Regardless of anti-androgen use
 - Stage of maturation arrest and azoospermia incidence differed among studies



Effect of Estradiol on Semen Analysis

- Studies examining semen parameters both on E2 and after discontinuation
- Patients on estradiol substantially worsened parameters, but sperm still present
- Extremely variable histology (even in women on E2)
- Level of gonadotropin suppression did not necessarily reflect degree of spermatogenesis
- Bottom line: FP is possible, although may not get same level of results



Transgender Women NOT on Estradiol

- Increased incidence abnormal semen parameters
 - Count
 - Motility
 - Morphology
- Pathophysiology unknown

Fertility Preservation Options

- Sperm cryopreservation
 - Can do trial semen analysis in patients on hormone therapy if azoospermic, try again after at least 3 months off therapy
- Isolation of sperm at time of gender-affirming surgery

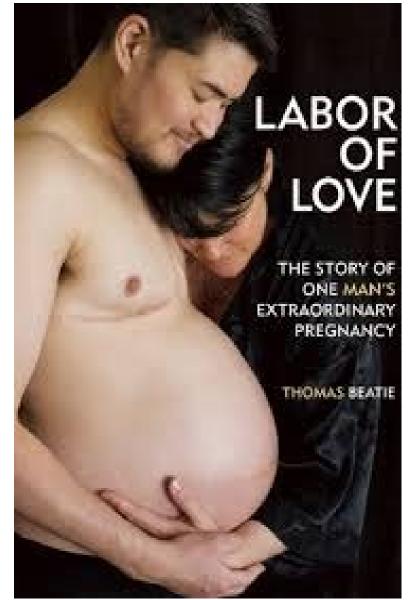
- Testicular tissue cryopreservation
 - No data



Fertility Considerations in Transmasculine Patients

Popular Press





Study on Pregnancy in Transgender Men

 Cross-sectional survey of 41 transmen who had a live birth, mean age 28yo

 84% of subjects on T before pregnancy used own eggs

32% conceived on T

 No difference in perinatal complications in those previously on T vs not

Table 2. Findings Among Those Who Used Testosterone Before Pregnancy of Report (n=25)

Characteristic	Value
Age (y) when testosterone was initiated	25 (17–35)
Length of testosterone use before	
pregnancy (y)	
Less than 1	10 (40)
1–2	6 (24)
3–10	4 (16)
More than 10	5 (20)
Stopped taking testosterone to	17 (68)
become pregnant	
Duration between stopping testosterone	
and resumption of menses (mo)	
No menses before pregnancy	5 (20)
Less than 1	2 (8)
1	6 (24)
2	7 (28)
3	4 (16)
4–6	1 (4)
Resumed or initiated testosterone	20 (48)
after pregnancy*	

Data are median (range) or n (%).

^{*} Of total respondents in the study (N=41).





Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Contraception

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/con



Original research article

Family planning and contraception use in transgender men *,** Alexis Light a,*, Lin-Fan Wang b, Alexander Zeymo c, Veronica Gomez-Lobo a,d



- 197 transgender men
- 60 pregnancies among 32 respondents
 - 10 after stopping T, 1 while on T irregularly; most had never taken T
 - Those who had never taken T were nearly 3x more likely to have been pregnant than those who had taken T (36% vs 13.8%)
- 51% reported that their healthcare providers had not asked about their fertility desires

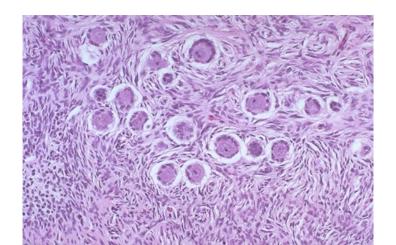


Effects of Testosterone on the Ovary

• Studies performed at the time of gender-affirming oophorectomy

Some studies show PCO morphology, while others show no difference

• Small case series, short T exposure (mean 12-37 months)





Effect of testosterone on AMH

Cannen et al:

- Measured AMH in 22 transmen (mean 22.4yo)
- Participants also on GnRHa and Al
- Significant suppression of AMH after
 16 weeks vs baseline
 - 4.4 vs 1.4 ng/ml (p<0.001)

Tack et al:

- 38 transgender adolescents
- All participants on an androgenic progestin, 25 then added T
- No change in AMH at baseline, 6 months or 12months (increased)



ART Outcomes

- Limited to small case series with promising oocyte and embryo cryopreservation results
- No ability to assess long-term outcomes for patients or offspring

Study	Design	Result
Leung 2019	N = 26 transmen (16 with prior T)	Transmen with prior T had no difference in oocyte number or maturity but higher gonadotropins needed
Adeleye 2019	N = 13 transgender men (7 with prior T) vs BMI-matched cisgender controls	Transmen with prior T had fewer total oocytes but no difference in mature oocytes as compared to no prior T
Amir 2020	N = 12 transgender men (6 with prior T) vs cisgender controls	No difference in oocyte number or maturity
Stark 2022	Case study: 2 transmen undergoing IVF while on active T treatment	Stimulation on T is feasible : 30 and 9 mature oocytes retrieved respectively
Moravek 2023	Case study: 2 transmen undergoing IVF while on active T treatment	Stimulation on T is feasible with development to blastocyst: 13 M2 -> 9 x 2PN -> 2 blastocysts; 23 M2 -> 14 x 2PN -> 8 blastocysts



Qualitative Experiences of Fertility Preservation

- 15 adult trans men who had completed oocyte cryo:
 - 7 had started testosterone prior
 - Majority found resumption of menses and increased estradiol levels to be psychologically distressing
 - Regret and medical outcomes not assessed
- Trans adolescents report process is emotionally and physically demanding even if:
 - Strongly desire fertility preservation
 - Had time to mentally prepare
 - Report satisfactory experience



Case Reports: Peripubertal Fert Pres

- 16yo transmasculine adolescent on GnRH agonist since age 14
- GnRH agonist maintained during stimulation
- Required gonadotropin injections x 30 days
- 4 mature oocytes cryopreserved

- 15yo transmasculine adolescent on GnRH agonist since age 12
- GnRH agonist implant removed prior to stimulation
- 12 day stimulation; concomitant letrozole administration
- 22 mature oocytes cryopreserved

Rothenberg et. al, *NEJM*, 2019

Martin et. al, Fertil Steril, 2021

Ovarian Stimulation – Special Considerations

- Cessation of testosterone likely to increase dysphoria
 - Some think T should be stopped for ~3 months
 - Others think T can be stopped just before
 - Could you maintain T during stimulation??
- Consider aromatase inhibitors to minimize E2 elevations; Progestin IUDs can be left in place
- Vaginal exams can be very distressing and T treatment may lead to vaginal atrophy
 - Consider transabdominal/transrectal or pediatric probes
- FDA lab testing



Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation?

No longer considered experimental, but limited data

• Could be performed at time of gender-affirming oophorectomy (does not require hormonal stimulation)

 Provider/patient must be okay with relatively little data on both OTC and the effect of T on the ovaries







Creating an Inclusive Space

Language

Call to Action

ajog.org

Welcoming transgender and nonbinary patients: expanding the language of "women's health"



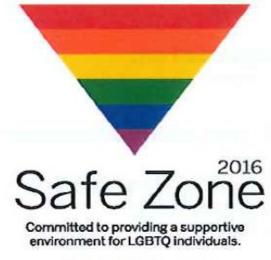
Daphna Stroumsa, MD, MPH; Justine P. Wu, MD, MPH

ver the last decade, transgender and gender-diverse people have gained greater visibility in society. At the same time, women's health care professionals are increasingly providing clinical services for this population, 1,2 including gender transition-related care (eg, gender-affirming hormone therapy

THE PROBLEM: The widespread use of gender-specific language in sexual and reproductive health care alienates gender-diverse people from seeking care and contributes to disparities in health.

THE SOLUTION: Promoting gender-inclusive and affirming language in verbal and written communication is a critical step toward reducing health disparities for gender-diverse people.

Inclusive Signage





Our physicians and staff support the American Medical Association nondiscrimination policy, in that:

This office appreciates the diversity of human beings and does not discriminate based on race, age, religion, ability, marital status, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity.







Inclusive intake forms

TRANSGENDER/CISGENDER STATUS VIA THE "TWO-STEP" APPROACH

RECOMMENDED MEASURES FOR THE "TWO-STEP" APPROACH:

ASSIGNED SEX AT BIRTH

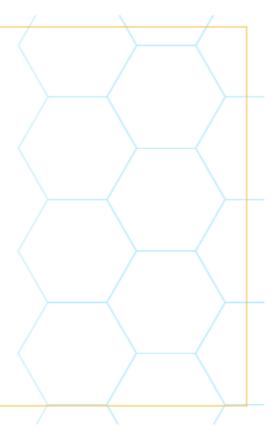
What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?

- Male
- Female

CURRENT GENDER IDENTITY

How do you describe yourself? (check one)

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- O Do not identify as female, male, or transgender





CREOG Training Modules



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Managers of Obstetrics
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Transgender Healthcare Curriculum

Training Modules: Improving Ob/Gyn Care for Transgender and Non-Individuals

Transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming individuals often discrimination in health care settings. Research shows that many are ur competent, knowledgeable and culturally-appropriate health care.

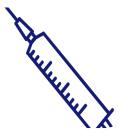
To assist faculty and staff, we created modules to prepare ob/gyns and to better care for transgender, non-binary and other gender diverse per



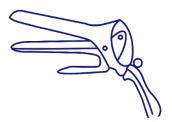
1. Intro



3. Gender affirming (transition) care



2. Preventive care



4. Common Ob/Gyn issues



5. Legal & billing



Staff: Caring for Patients and Visitors Who Are Transgender or Gender Nonconforming



Competency

Staff will gain understanding of Michigan Medicine's commitment to serving transgender and gender non-conforming patients and visitors.

Critical Behaviors

- Understand the difference between sex and gender
- Understand the difference between cisgender and transgender
- Understand the different idendities that exist under the transgender umbrella
- Understand barriers that transgender patients may experience in healthcare

How much time will I need?

Module: 5 minutes Quizzes: 5 minutes

Who is the audience for this lesson?

Michigan Medicine staff

What are the requirements?

View the video

Pass the quizzes with 100%

Additional Resources

Introduction Provider Training

To view close captioning, or to view the video at full screen, please use the controls at the bottom of the video.

Close Captioning

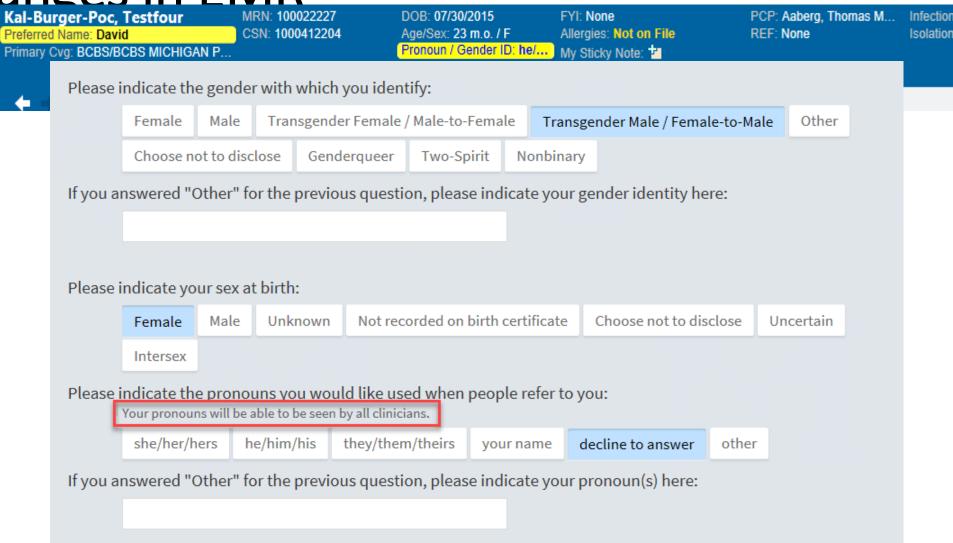




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Changes in EMR



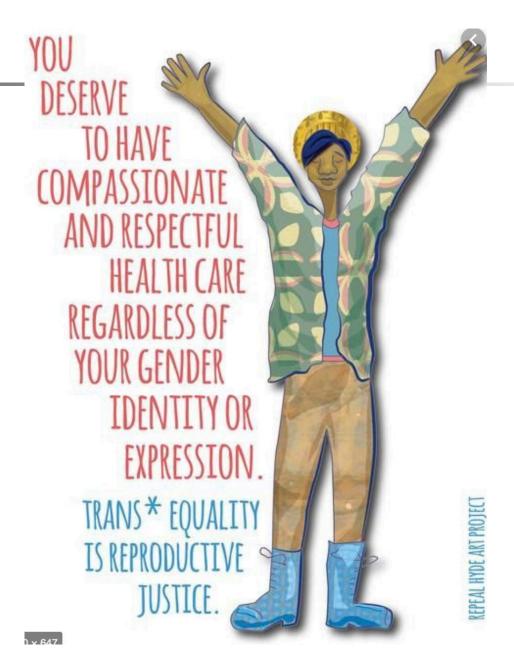
Additional Information

http://www.wpath.org/

http://transhealth.ucsf.edu/

 https://transequality.org/issues/n ational-transgenderdiscrimination-survey

 http://fenwayhealth.org/care/me dical/transgender-health/



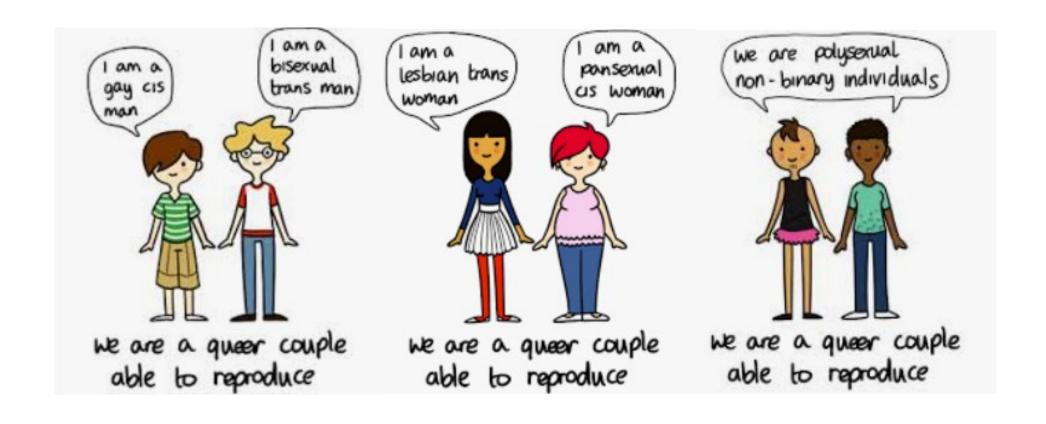
Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/ Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society* Clinical Practice Guideline

Wylie C. Hembree, ¹ Peggy T. Cohen-Kettenis, ² Louis Gooren, ³ Sabine E. Hannema, ⁴ Walter J. Meyer, ⁵ M. Hassan Murad, ⁶ Stephen M. Rosenthal, ⁷ Joshua D. Safer, ⁸ Vin Tangpricha, ⁹ and Guy G. T'Sjoen ¹⁰

https://academic.oup.com/jcem/article/102/11/3869/4157558



Assume not...







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