

## Eighteen-Year Experience with Male-to-Female Gender-Affirming Surgery: Review of Technique and Surgical Results

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**Introduction & Objectives:** Gender dysphoria (GD) is an incompatibility between biological sex and personal gender identity; individuals harbor an unalterable conviction that they were born in the wrong body, which causes personal suffering. In this context, surgery is imperative to achieve a successful gender transition and plays a key role in alleviating the associated psychological discomfort.

**Methods:** retrospective cohort study of 186 Brazilian transgender woman who underwent GAS between January of 2000 and July of 2017. Patient demographics, intra and postoperative complications, reoperations, and secondary surgical procedures were recorded. The statistical analysis was conducted using Statistical Product and Service Solutions Version 18.0 (SPSS). Descriptive statistics were used to evaluate the study outcomes. Mean values and standard deviations or median values and ranges are presented for continuous measurements. Frequencies and percentages are reported for dichotomous and ordinal variables.

**Results:** results demonstrate that the average age at the time of surgery was 32.2 years (range, 18 to 61 years); the average of operative time was 3.3 hours

(range, 2 to 5 hours); the average duration of hormone therapy before surgery was 12 years (range, 1-39). The most common minor postoperative complications were granulation tissue (23.6 percent) and introital stricture of the neovagina (18 percent) and the major complications included urethral stenosis (23.6 percent) and hematoma/excessive bleeding (10.2 percent). A total of 36 patients (19.3 percent) underwent some form of reoperation. One hundred forty-six (80.7 percent) patients in our series were able to have regular sexual intercourse, and no individual regretted having undergone GAS.

**Conclusions:** the definitive treatment for patients with gender dysphoria is gender-affirming surgery. Our series demonstrates that GAS is a feasible surgery with low rates of serious complications. We emphasize the high level of functionality of the vagina after the procedure, as well as subjective personal satisfaction.

**Keywords:** transsexualism, gender-affirming surgery, surgical outcomes

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