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Laparoscopic Gender Confirmation Surgery

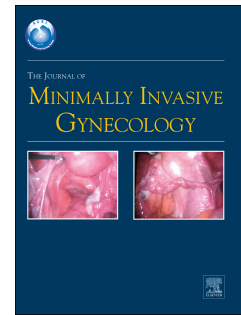
Cécile A. Unger, MD MPH

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<DOC>Editorial

<AT>Laparoscopic Gender Confirmation Surgery

<AU>Cécile A. Unger, MD, MPH

<AFN>From the Center for Urogynecology & Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery, Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio.

<BEGIN ARTICLE>

This series by Gomes da Costa et al [1] describes vaginectomy at the time of laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy in 23 transgender male patients seeking gender confirmation surgery. Although the authors describe the procedure in a small cohort of patients, this article has important implications. First, vaginectomy at the time hysterectomy is both feasible and safe for this subset of the population. Second, surgeons performing gender confirmation surgeries are beginning to report on their procedural techniques, outcomes, and complications.

Many transgender patients seek surgical procedures to assist them in completing their transition. Individuals who are assigned as female at birth but self-identify as male (transgender men) sometimes desire hysterectomy with removal of the fallopian tubes and ovaries. A subset of these patients also desire vaginectomy at the time of pelvic organ removal. "Vaginectomy" in this patient population is a term that is often used among surgeons to describe an obliterative procedure that renders the vagina nonfunctional. This type of vaginectomy often entails de-

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