

Gender Identity Disorder:

Excerpts from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder, DSM-IV, Fourth Edition

In adolescents and adults, preoccupation with cross-gender wishes often interferes with ordinary activities. Relationship difficulties are common, and functioning at school or at work may be impaired... For sexually mature individuals, the following specifiers may be noted based on the individual's sexual orientation: Sexually Attracted to males, Sexually Attracted to Females, Sexually Attracted to Both, and Sexually Attracted to Neither. Males with Gender Identity Disorder include substantial proportions with all four specifiers.

The disturbance can be so pervasive that the mental lives of some individuals revolve only around those activities that lessen gender distress...Relationships with one or both parents also may be seriously impaired. Some males with Gender Identity Disorder resort to self-treatment with hormones and may very rarely perform their own castration or penectomy. Especially in urban centers, some males with the disorder may engage in prostitution which places them at high risk for human immunodeficiency virus(HIV) infection Suicide attempts and Substance-Related Disorder are commonly associated... In Adults anxiety and depressive symptoms may be present. In clinical samples associated Personality Disorders are more common among males than among females...Individuals with Gender Identity Disorder have normal genitalia(In contrast to ambiguous genitalia or hypogonadism found in physical intersex conditions)....

Postsurgical complications in genetic females include prominent chest wall scars, and in genetic males, vaginal strictures, rectovaginal fistulas, urethral stenoses, and misdirected urinary streams....roughly 1 per 30,000 adult males and 1 per 100,000 adult females seek sex-reassignment surgery.

..By late adolescence or adulthood, about three-quarters of boys who had a childhood history of Gender Identity Disorder report a homosexual or bisexual orientation but without concurrent Gender Identity Disorder. Most of the remainder report a heterosexual orientation also without concurrent Gender Identity Disorder...this disorder is not meant to describe a child's nonconformity to stereotypic sex-role behavior as for example, in "tomboyishness" in girls or "sissyish" behavior in boys. Rather, it represents a profound disturbance of the individual's sense of identity....