

Evaluation of Teaching Culturally-Sensitive Care for the Transfemme Patient

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INTRODUCTION

Transgender patients face serious healthcare barriers including not limited to:

- Refusal of care
- Verbal harassment
- Alienation
- Physical violence
- Shortage of providers knowledgeable in transgender health

Fortunately, there are an increasing number of urology fellowship programs that offer training in gender-affirming genitourinary reconstructive surgery. While these sub-specialty training programs suggest advancements in transgender care, less emphasis has been placed on training medical staff to care for these patients pre- and post-operatively.



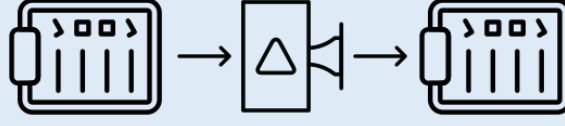
A transgender woman in a hospital gown speaking to her doctor, a transgender man, in an exam room.

OBJECTIVE

1. Train University of Iowa Health Care (UIHC) urology medical assistants and nursing providers on transgender identity, gender-expansive language, and pre- and post-operative care in order to care for zero-depth and full depth vaginoplasty patients using 25-minute video.
2. Assess provider pre- and post- training confidence, feasibility, and acceptability of the training.

METHODS

1. A 20-minute educational video designed by the authors was presented to nursing and medical support staff in the urology department of a tertiary academic medical center.
2. The following topics were covered: transgender identity, health disparities, asking for and using gender neutral pronouns, surgical transition, pre- and post-operative care, and addressing transgender-related bias.
3. Pre- and post-intervention survey data measuring participants' acceptability and knowledge of the material was measured on a 5-point Likert scale. Comparison of ratings was completed using the Wilcoxon signed rank test.



DISCUSSION

Following the brief educational intervention, participants reported improved confidence in understanding: ($p < 0.05$)

- Transgender health
- Transphobia
- Gender neutral pronouns
- Options for gender-affirming surgeries
- Sex versus gender
- Social versus medical transition

Participants reported the greatest understanding in the following topics:

- Types of gender-affirming genitourinary surgeries
- Addressing transgender-specific biases
- Entering transgender-specific health information on the electronic medical record.

Our study suggests that a brief educational intervention can improve confidence and knowledge in providing transgender-related care. We believe that similar interventions should be considered part of the standard education for health care staff, especially at centers where gender-affirming genital surgery is routinely performed.

RESULTS

Variable	Avg. Likert Scale Increase
Interest	0.08
Knowledge**	1.38
Sex v. Gender**	1.15
Intersection	0.39
Look	0.23
Provide*	0.92
Ask Pronouns**	0.85
Use Pronouns**	0.77
Transition Type**	1.15
EPIC Use**	1.31
Transphobia**	1.00
Bias	0.15
Bottom Surgery***	2.15

$n=23$; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

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