



## The combined vaginoplasty technique: outcome and after MTF sex reassignment surgery-a prospective study

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**Background:** Several therapy options exist for male-to-female transsexuals desiring sex reassignment. Surgery includes numerous different procedures. Of those, vaginoplasty is predominant and aims at providing attractive aesthetics and fully functional genitals. The goal of this study was to present the surgical results of our newly modified combined vaginoplasty technique that incorporates the penile and scrotal skin, as well as the urethra to form the vagina. Furthermore, in our prospective patient cohort, patients' satisfaction with their surgical results was evaluated.

**Methods:** The authors post-operatively examined 23 male-to-female transsexuals between Sep'2012 and Jan'2014 who underwent their sex reassignment surgery, focusing their assessment on genitalia and breasts. Additionally, 40 patients filled out our self-developed indication-specific questionnaire before their first and six months after their final stage of sex reassignment. These questionnaires focused on demographic characteristics, sexuality, and the satisfaction with aesthetic and functional results.

**Results:** Measured vaginal depth was 11.77-14.99 cm depending on dilator size used (25-40 mm). Vaginal, clitoral, and labial sensitivity was intact in all examined patients. Femininity and sexual activity increased significantly after surgery ( $p < 0.01$ ). Satisfaction with intercourse and orgasm was high. Patients rated their surgical satisfaction of most items with mean scores above 7 on a 0-10 point scale. No patients regretted having undergone surgery and a large majority would recommend it to other patients.

**Conclusion:** Functional and physical results, sexuality, as well as satisfaction with the cosmetic outcome reveal positive effects of sex reassignment surgery using the combined technique on transsexuals' everyday life. Nevertheless, these data need to be confirmed by other research groups as well. Therefore, in our opinion, sex reassignment surgery remains an evolving area of development currently aiming to establish a state of the art surgical technique and increase patients' satisfaction in their lives.

**Biography:** Dr. Papadopoulos, born in Greece, 2009 was elected as Professor of Plastic Surgery at the Munich Technical University in Germany, as well as 2014 as associate Professor, and 2018 as Professor of Plastic Surgery at the Democritus University of Thrace in Alexandroupoli, Greece. Additionally, since 2017 he is visiting Professor of Plastic Surgery at the University of Athens in Athens, Greece. Dr. Papadopoulos served as President of the International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society, and the Hellenic Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery. Currently he is President of the Greek Society of Lymphology and ExCo Member of the Hellenic Society of Hand Surgery.

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