

## **DILEMMA IN SEX ASSIGNMENT IN TRUE HERMAPHRODITISM**

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**Aim:** To study the dilemma in sex assignment in true hermaphrodite (TH) patients in an Indian scenario.

**Material:** Assigning sex especially in true hermaphrodite type of intersex patients is a challenging issue for the parents as well as for medical person managing the case. In all, 47 patients with TH managed during 1980 - 2005, were reviewed.

**Result:** The parents assigned male sex in 34 Patients (72.3 %) and female sex in 6 (12.7 %). Seven cases (14.8 %) presented with the dilemma in sex assignment soon after birth. There were phenotypically male type genitalia in 36 Patient (76.5 %) and female type in only 3 patients (6.3 %) with ambiguity in 8 (17 %). Investigations included karyotyping, retrograde genitogram, hormonal evaluation and operative gonadal biopsy to confirm the pattern of gonads. Male sex was assigned in 42 patients (89.3 %) and female sex in only 5 (10.6 %). This was based on phallic size, gonadal pattern, internal genitalia, parental wish and the phenotype appearance of genitalia. The incidence of sex re-assignment female to male gender type occurred in 4 Patients (8.5 %) with no male to female conversion, thus the over all conversion rate in this study is 8.5%.

**Conclusion:** Sex assignment in TH needs stepwise multispeciality workup. Proper planning and counseling in consultation with parents and the patient is essential for proper adjustment in the family and the society.

**Presentation Type:** Oral Presentation

**Authorize Publishing:** Yes

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