

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND FAMILY EQUATIONS IN INTERSEX PATIENTS.

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Aim: To evaluate the psychosocial and family adjustment in intersex patients in later life.

Materials & Methods: Of the 1066 intersex patients being followed up in pediatric intersex clinic, 60 adults who had been assigned male sex in childhood were called for followup, and interviewed individually for the psychosocial and family adjustment in their life. This was followed by a parental interview.

Results: Their age ranged from 18 years to 25 years with an average of 21.3 years. 85 % of the patients were satisfied with the sex assigned to them in childhood while 100 % parents agreed and were comfortable with the same. A 76.9 % of the patients felt shy and did not feel comfortable with the opposite sex. Only 46 % considered marriage as a possibility in their lives. Family support was available to all and the relationships were generally considered 'good' by them. Most of them (84.6 %) felt isolated and not fully adjusting in the society. Patients and the parents were conscious but did not disclose about the smaller size of the phallus, absence of gonad in the scrotum and the diagnosis of intersexuality.

Conclusion: Despite the moral, social and economic support provided by the parents, intersex children continue to have insecurity, social stigma and problem in adjustment in the family and the society in the Indian scenario.

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