Determinants of sex of rearing in late presenters of 5 alfa reductase deficiency in developing society

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Aims and Objectives- To propound various factors, and their relative importance in guiding the determination of sex of rearing in late presenters of 5 alfa reductase deficiency in developing society.

Material and Methods- Seven patients of proven 5 alfa reductase deficiency were prospectively involved in this study between 2000 and 2011. All patients had been raised as females and presented with ambiguity of genitalia at a later age which is quite common in a developing society due to various factors. Diagnosis of 5 alfa reductase deficiency was confirmed after various standard tests. On the basis of male genotype, size of phallus, response to dihydrotestosterone cream application, socioeconomic status and wishes of parents and children, sex of further rearing was advised. Repeated elaborate sessions of counselling was an integral and vital part of these decisions.

Results- After comprehensive counselling, clinical and laboratory facts, results of medical and surgical interventions, social milieu of the society and personal choice of patients and their family, six out of seven patients were advised change of sex of rearing to male and accordingly necessary interventions were done. One patient continued to be reared as female. Quality of life, acceptability in society and most importantly, ability to make a living on its own, were followed, studied and analysed.

Conclusion- Clinical facts, Social realities, employment avenues, social stigma, infertility and many other factors suggest that, in a developing society, it is strongly advisable to consider the change of sex of rearing to male in all late presenters of 5 alfa reductase deficiency.