

Gender Identity Disorder

- Dissatisfaction with one's own biological sex and a desire to change to the opposite sex

Symptoms:

- Identifies as belonging to another gender
- Does not conform with the gender role their respective society prescribes to them
- Feelings that one's body is wrong or meant to be different
- Significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, etc. areas of functioning
- Dysphoria
- Intersex conditions
- Transient, stress-related cross-dressing behavior

Causes / Stressors / Diathesis:

- Psychodynamic: disturbance in the parent-infant bond
- Behavioral: result of a long process where the child's caretaker shaped his/her behavior toward the opposite gender
- Neuroscience: hormone imbalance
- There are homosexual and heterosexual cases of gender identity disorder
- Homosexual cases are when the person is one sex and begins to show signs wanting to change sexes in childhood. Then, in adulthood, they want to be attracted to the same sex but be seen, treated, etc. as the opposite sex
- Heterosexual cases are when they do not show feminine behavior as children. The men are sexually attracted to women but from adolescence on, want to be seen [themselves] as women.
- It is categorized as "of childhood and adolescence" or "of adulthood"; however, the adulthood cases are the most common

Treatment:

- Medical treatment for changing a person's sexual characteristics [sex reassignment therapy] is not considered a cure, but it can help the person live in a more appropriate gender role for their identity
- Psychological treatment is not seen as a cure because they are ineffective in the person's behavior