

Investigate Unethical NIH Study

In 2015, the National Institutes of Health awarded a \$5.7 million dollar grant¹ to four pediatric gender clinics. The study's goal is to "provide essential, evidence-based information on the physiological and psychosocial impact, as well as safety, of hormone blockers and cross-sex hormones use in this [pediatric] population."

For the past four years, children in this study have been given risky hormonal treatments. Those in early puberty are given puberty blockers; older children, cross-sex hormones. These treatments impact bone health, fertility, sexual function, cardiovascular health, and brain development.

In 2017, the minimum age for cross-sex hormone inclusion was decreased --mid-study-- from 13 to 8.² This taxpayer-funded study thus involves injecting girls as young as eight years old with testosterone for long-term usage -- a powerful hormone known to harm adult men even with short-term use.

This study has no control group. Fertility and sexual functioning will certainly be impacted, as puberty was artificially stopped at a stage before sperm or egg preservation was possible.

Can a child meaningfully consent to infertility? Can their parents?

Were these parents fully informed of the health risks before allowing their children to be hormonally treated for five years?

Have informed consent laws been violated?

Why are taxpayers funding a study that causes serious medical harms to children?

This must be investigated.

¹ <http://grantome.com/grant/NIH/R01-HD082554-01A1>

² https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/3f4f51_a929d049f7fb46c7a72c4c86ba43869a.pdf



We are parents of children who suddenly began identifying as transgender.

Some of our children are autistic, or have ADHD, and struggle to fit in with their peers. Many are intellectually gifted. Some appear same-sex attracted. Others have serious mental health issues.

When our children suddenly and unexpectedly announced that they were transgender, we were shocked; it seemed clear that something else was going on. Evidence of peer and online influences was abundant.

Influences are often right in our communities. In an attempt to foster acceptance of differences, some schools teach young students about being transgender. But this can and does lead vulnerable children to conclude that they were born in the "wrong body." Many of our sons and daughters learned about this for the first time at school, where transgender identities are common. When our children "came out" and requested name changes at school, we parents were not notified.

Therapy that explores possible causes of our children's distress is nearly impossible to find. When we tried to get help for our children, therapists told us that kids know who they are, and that our job as parents is to simply accept and "affirm" our children's new identities.

Some of us have been aggressively pushed to consent to hormonal treatments. We were not informed that these treatments cause serious side effects and that there are no long-term studies to support their efficacy.

Those of us with young adult children have watched helplessly as they received cross-sex hormones -- prescribed for lifetime usage -- at "informed consent" clinics. Some of our daughters have had mastectomies soon after deciding they were transgender. Many colleges encourage medical transitioning, and even offer these services as part of their health plans. Some of our children, within their first semester of college, became convinced they were transgender and needed to transition immediately. We have been blindsided.

And when we do voice concerns, we are labeled hateful, bigoted, and transphobic. Many compare us to parents who do not support their gay children, ignoring the obvious difference: being gay does not lead to surgeries or taking dangerous hormones for life.

We refuse to be silenced any longer. We are sharing our stories to help change the systems that have failed our kids.