

New View Campaign (www.newviewcampaign.org)
RESOURCES ON FEMALE GENITAL COSMETIC SURGERY (FGCS)
SEVEN areas of information about FGCS
October, 2008

I. FGCS Statistics in the US

Few records are kept about FGCS. No group records labia surgeries as a separate category, but “vagina rejuvenation” could include labia cutting.

American Society for Plastic Surgeons: 2005, 2006 statistics

<http://www.plasticsurgery.org/media/statistics/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=23766>

Vaginal rejuvenation 2005: 793

2006: 1,030 (30% increase)

Genital surgeries are NOT listed in ASPS 2007 statistics!

<http://www.plasticsurgery.org/media/statistics/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=29426>

American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery: 2007 statistics

<http://www.surgery.org/download/2007stats.pdf>

Vaginal Rejuvenation 2007: 4506

18 and under - 110 (2.4%)

19-34 - 1716 (38.1%)

35-50 - 2449 (54.4%)

51-64 - 230 (5.1%)

II. Website with many different surgeons' before and after photos

These show better than anything how the range of normal, beautiful vulvas is reduced to a uniform “look.” The “before” pictures stigmatise women’s genitals.

<http://www.labiaplastysurgeon.com/>

III. Good journalism coverage of FGCS issues

These stories present good information and allow a range of voices to be heard.

Todd Spivak (May 11, 2006) [Houston Press](http://www.houstonpress.com/2006-05-11/news/in-the-pink/). “In the Pink”

<http://www.houstonpress.com/2006-05-11/news/in-the-pink/>

Natasha Singer (July 3, 2008) [New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/03/fashion/03SkinOne.html)

“A Spa for Those Women Concerned About ‘Pelvic Fitness’”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/03/fashion/03SkinOne.html>

Jessica Brinton (June 29, 2008) [The Sunday \(UK\) Times](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/features/article4211836.ece)

“The man who wants to reshape your private parts”

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/features/article4211836.ece

Melissa Healy (March 15, 2006) Los Angeles Times “Intimate Makeover”
http://www.51plus.com/intimate_makeover.htm

Mireya Navarro (November 28, 2004) New York Times “The Most Private of Makeovers” <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/28/fashion/28PLAS.html>

Debra Ollivier (November 14, 2000) Salon.com “Designer Vaginas”
<http://archive.salon.com/sex/feature/2000/11/14/vagina/index.html>

Jennifer Armstrong (June 24, 2008) Altnet (from Sirens magazine) “Vagina Anxiety: The rise of the labialplasty” <http://www.altnet.org/sex/89328>

Sandra G. Boodman (March 6, 2007) Washington Post “Cosmetic Surgery’s new frontier”
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/02/AR2007030201549_pf.html

Tristan Taormino (April 13, 2004) Village Voice
“The G-Shot: A new medical procedure enlarges a woman’s G-spot.”
<http://www.villagevoice.com/2004-04-13/columns/the-g-shot>

IV: Research showing reduced sensation and sexual function in women who had genital surgery in infancy

Infant surgeries are not the same as adult procedures, but these studies suggest how damaging surgery in these delicate areas can be.

Minto, CL, Liao, LM Woodhouse, CR, Ransley, PG & Creighton, SM (2003) The effect of clitoral surgery on sexual outcome in individuals who have intersex conditions with ambiguous genitalia: a cross-sectional study. Lancet, 361: 1252-1257.

Crouch NS, Liao LM, Woodhouse CR, Conway GS, Creighton SM. (2008) Sexual function and genital sensitivity following feminizing genitoplasty for congenital adrenal hyperplasia. Journal of Urology, 179: 634-638.

V. Research on women who have had FGCS as adults

There are very few studies that tell us about the consequences of adult surgery.

Bramwell, R, Morland, C & Garden, AS (2007) Expectations and experience of labial reduction: A qualitative study. BJOG: An international Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 114: 1493-1499. Abstract on
<http://www.obgynsurvey.com/pt/re/obgynsurv/abstract.00006254-200803000-00011.htm;jsessionid=JCDYChk4GL8qW4TwLwX9Z76yTC1SydT191nx36fyxtgZPvX MhB5N!-1891305337!181195628!8091!-1>

Rouzier R, Louis-Sylvestre C, Paniel BJ, Haddad B. (2000) Hypertrophy of labia minora: experience with 163 reductions. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 182:35-40.

VI. Academic analyses of FGCS

These papers in medical and social science journals examine the issues in depth.

Braun, V. (2005). In search of (better) sexual pleasure: female genital 'cosmetic' surgery. Sexualities, 8(4), 407-424 (abstract on <http://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/staff/Braun/BraunAbstracts.htm>)

Liao, L-M. and Creighton, S.M. (2007) 'Requests for Cosmetic Genitoplasty: How Should Healthcare Providers Respond?' British Medical Journal 334: 1090-2 Abstract on <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/334/7603/1090> Also, read comments!

Tiefer, L. (2008) Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery: Freakish or Inevitable? Analysis from Medical Marketing, Bioethics, and Feminist Theory. Feminism & Psychology, 18, 466-479 Abstract on <http://fap.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/18/4/466>

The Female Patient, June, 2007 - "Should Ob-Gyns offer vaginal rejuvenation? PRO and CON" http://www.lvri-ny.com/images/0607TFP_HOTseat.pdf

Lippman, Abby (1999) Choice as a risk to women's health. Health, Risk and Society, 1, 281-291.

VII. Appreciating genital diversity

Materials that would be helpful for women discontented or questioning about their genitals.

Lloyd, J., Crouch, N.S., Minto, C.L., Liao, L-M. and Creighton, S.M. (2005) 'Female Genital Appearance: "Normality" Unfolds', BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology 112: 643-6

http://www.scarleteen.com/resource/advice/betty_dodsons_vulva_illustrations
http://www.scarleteen.com/article/advice/giveem_some_lip_labia_that_clearly_aint_minor

<http://www.channel4.com/health/microsites/G/g-spot/perfect-vagina/how-to-love-your-vagina.html>
http://www.channel4.com/health/microsites/G/g-spot/perfect-vagina/gallery_3_jamie-pictures.html
"How to Love your vagina" tips from British TV show and plastercasts of diverse vulvas

Betty Dodson self-help sex ed videos, especially "Viva La Vulva" and "Selfloving: Portrait Of A Women's Sexuality Seminar"
<http://www.dodsonandross.com/boutique/videos>

Betty Dodson Genital Art Gallery. Dozens of amateur photos of genitals; Betty posted them to celebrate the beauty of genital diversity and the diversity of genital beauty. Click on each one to read essay submitted along with photo.
<http://www.dodsonandross.com/gallery>

Blank, Joanie (1993) Femalia. San Francisco: Down There Press. (book of genital photos)