

MICHAEL L. BROWNSTEIN, M. D., F. A. C. S.

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

PLASTIC AND  
AESTHETIC SURGERY  
(415) 441-2777

OPERA PLAZA  
MEZZANINE SUITE 2058  
601 VAN NESS  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

January 26, 1989

Dear Lou,

Here is a copy of the letter Dr Brownstein wrote regarding the surgeries that he performs. I've already had the opportunity to send a few copies out to some people who inquired about F-to-M procedures.

I was quite impressed, by the way, with your newsletter. Keep up the good and necessary work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lauren". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

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I perform two operations relative to female to male sexual reassignment surgery. They are detailed as follows:

The first procedure is mastectomy and nipple areola reconstruction. The goal of this procedure is to remove as much breast tissue as possible, as well as excess skin. An appropriately sized male areola and nipple are then constructed achieving proper positioning and symmetry. This nipple/areola reconstruction is accomplished by taking grafts of original tissues, sizing them, and properly placing them.

Regarding genital surgery, the clitoris, after appropriate enlargement secondary to hormone therapy, is "unhooded". Suprapubic tissues are defatted, and the clitoris is supported using other available tissues, giving it maximum exposure. The size of the neophallus is greatly dependent on hormone effect.

Additionally, the labia majora are lowered and testicular implants are placed within them to simulate scrotum and testes.

In some cases the urethra may be extended partially along the underside of the clitoris, though this is a much more complicated procedure.

The goal of the genital operation is to achieve male appearance with a single staged, less complicated procedure than some others which are available.

These operations require a general anesthetic. The mastectomy can be performed on an outpatient basis; the genital surgery requires one to three days hospital care.

The protocol standards of the Harry Benjamin Gender Dysphoria Association must be met and appropriate letters of recommendation received before the surgery can be performed.

These are complex procedures and it is imperative that a detailed discussion of the techniques, scars, limitations, inherent risks and possible complications be understood by the prospective patient. For these reasons a personal consultation and examination, and perhaps additional discussions are required in order to achieve these pre-operative goals, to obtain realistic expectations, and to answer all questions.

Costs can be discussed on an individual basis as they vary with extent of procedure and length of operating time. There is a surgeon's fee, an operating room fee, an anesthesiologists fee, and possibly a fee for hospital stay.

We are happy to talk with you at any time. Or, you may be interested in contacting a local support group:

F-T-M Peer Support Group  
[redacted] Haight St # [redacted]  
San Francisco, Ca 94117

We can also provide referrals to appropriate therapists as needed. Thank you for your request.

Sincerely,

Michael Brownstein, M.D.  
lsj