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Clitoral reconstructive surgery after female genital mutilation

Amr Seifeldin

Urogynecology & pelvic reconstructive surgery unit, El Galaa teaching hospital for women Cairo - Egypt

Background: Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), is a cultural tradition widely practiced in Africa and other parts of the world. It causes serious complications on the physical and psychological levels. Increased patient awareness of FGM/C and the desire for an equal feeling and look as the uncut woman has necessitated a need for restorative procedures, yet few doctors are trained in methods of genital cosmetic & reconstructive surgery. most FGM/C victims are unaware of the availability of clitoral reconstructive surgery to reverse the ill effects of FGM/C.

Method: 107 patients were selected with female genital mutilation type II and type III, age was between 18 and 36 years. patients answered a female sexual function index (FSFI) questionnaire on admission, noting their sexual characteristics, and pain level. Postoperatively, patients were asked to come back every 3 months for a one-year follow up.

Results: Clitoral reconstructive surgery after female genital mutilation provides an improvement in patient psychology and mood noted by an increase in confidence, self-esteem, feminine body identity, and quality of life. we also noted improvement in sexual desire, arousal and satisfaction with moderate improvement in time to reach orgasm, lubrication and pain. However orgasmic intensity has improved to a great extent, together with relationship with parents previously blamed for giving consent for the procedure, and partner relation

Conclusion: Increased education, awareness and family support are an important step in lowering FGM/C rates in Africa. genital reconstructive procedures have shown promising results and should be offered and made available to all FGM/C victims who consult gynecology clinics in hospitals. The training of more doctors in genital cosmetic and reconstructive techniques should also be encouraged.

a.seifeldin@gmail.com