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# New Study: Transgender Suicide Rates Double After Gender Surgery

Story by Michelle Harler • 12h • [3 min read](#)

A groundbreaking [study](#) has brought to light alarming findings regarding the mental health of transgender individuals who have undergone genital surgery. The research, which investigated the rates of psychiatric emergencies and suicide attempts before and after gender-affirming surgery, has uncovered a disturbing trend that demands immediate attention and action. The study's results shed light on the complex challenges faced by the transgender community and the urgent need for comprehensive mental health support throughout the transition process.

## Doubled Suicide Attempt Rates After Vaginoplasty



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One of the most shocking revelations from the study is the dramatic increase in suicide attempt rates following vaginoplasty. The research found that the overall rates of suicide attempts doubled from 1.5% to 3.3% ( $p=0.017$ ) after this particular gender-affirming surgery. This finding highlights the immense psychological toll that the transition process can take on individuals and the critical importance of providing ongoing mental health support.

## Higher Prevalence of Suicide Attempts in Vaginoplasty Group





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The [study](#) also revealed that suicide attempts were more common among patients who underwent vaginoplasty compared to those who had phalloplasty. In the vaginoplasty group, 4.4% of patients attempted suicide, while only 1.7% of patients in the phalloplasty group had a similar experience ( $p=0.033$ ). This disparity suggests that individuals undergoing vaginoplasty may be at a higher risk of experiencing severe mental health challenges and require additional support and intervention.

## Psychiatric Encounters Before and After Surgery



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The research found that a significant proportion of patients in both the vaginoplasty and phalloplasty groups experienced psychiatric encounters before and after their surgeries. Among the vaginoplasty group, 22.2% (193 patients) had at least one psychiatric encounter, while 20.7% (74 patients) in the phalloplasty group had a similar experience. These findings underscore the high rates of mental health challenges faced by transgender individuals throughout the transition process.

## Increased Risk for Patients with Prior Psychiatric Emergencies





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The study identified that patients with a history of prior psychiatric emergencies were at a higher risk of experiencing mental health challenges after gender-affirming surgery. The rate of a psychiatric encounter occurring after surgery, given a prior episode before surgery, was 33.9% for the vaginoplasty group and 26.5% for the phalloplasty group. This finding emphasizes the need for targeted mental health support and intervention for individuals with a history of psychiatric emergencies.

## Comparing Suicide Attempt Rates to the General Population

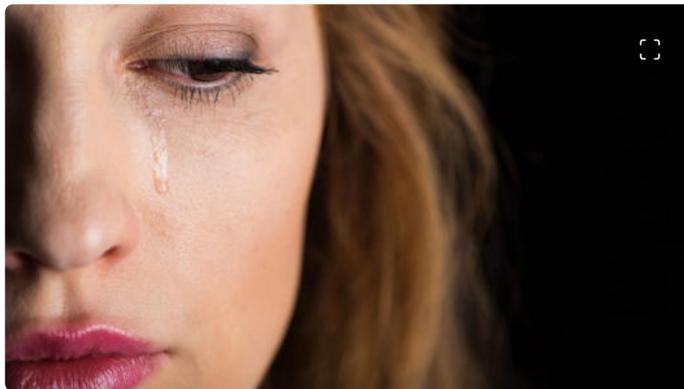


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The study revealed that the observed rate of suicide attempts in the phalloplasty group was similar to that of the general population. However, the vaginoplasty group's rate was found to be more than double the general population's rate. This alarming statistic highlights the unique and profound challenges faced by individuals undergoing vaginoplasty and the urgent need for specialized support and resources.

## Importance of Pre-Surgical Counseling and Post-Surgical Follow-Up



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The findings of this study underscore the critical importance of comprehensive pre-surgical counseling and post-surgical follow-up for transgender individuals undergoing gender-affirming surgery. The research calls for the development of targeted interventions and support systems to address the mental health needs of this vulnerable population, particularly those undergoing vaginoplasty or those with a history of prior psychiatric emergencies.

## Call for Further Research and Comprehensive Support



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The study's alarming findings serve as a wake-up call to the medical community and society at large, highlighting the urgent need for further research into the factors contributing to the increased risk of suicide attempts after gender surgery. The research also emphasizes the importance of developing comprehensive, compassionate, and accessible mental health support services for transgender individuals throughout their transition journey.

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