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Transsexual Surgery

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Sex-change surgery

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STANFORD (AP)—Sex-change surgery will continue at Stanford University Medical Center despite this week's decision by prestigious Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore to abandon such operations.

Stanford psychiatrist Dr. Norman Fisk, a director of Stanford's Gender Dysphoria Clinic, said "gender reassignment" surgery was the "preferred treatment" in "carefully selected cases."

Fisk said Tuesday Stanford has a minimum waiting period of two years for each sexchange operation performed at the center, adding that for every 10 persons who seek a sex change, one is permitted to undergo surgery.

Since the program's birth 11 years ago, some 220 persons — mostly men wanting to become women — have had sex-change surgery.

The consensus of patients who have undergone sex-change surgery at Stanford, Fisk said, was "that none had been harmed, not a single one expressed regret, and most described a high improvement in their sexual functioning..."

Johns Hopkins, pioneer in American sex-change surgery, has handled about 180 cases since the hospital's program was founded in 1966.