**GP 18 Abstract Submission**

**Title**

Female genital cosmetic surgery: a cross-sectional survey exploring knowledge, attitude and practice of general practitioners

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**Background**

Reasons for the climb in labiaplasty rates in Australia, UK and USA are poorly understood. The role of the general practitioner regarding this emerging area of surgery has been identified as a ‘new dilemma for the general practitioner’.1

**Aims**

To explore general practitioner's (GP) knowledge, attitudes and practice regarding female genital cosmetic surgery (FGCS) in Australia.

**Method**

An online national, cross-sectional survey of GPs was conducted for the 10-week period, starting 8 August 2015. 31 questions prompted GPs' knowledge, attitudes and practice in managing patients asking about FGCS.

**Results**

The survey was fully completed by 443 GPs; 54% had seen patients requesting FGCS. Overall, 75% (95% CI 71% to 79%) of GPs rated their knowledge of FGCS as inadequate and 97% (95% CI 94% to 99%) had been asked by women of all ages about genital normality. Of those who had seen patients requesting FGCS, nearly half (44%, 95% CI 38% to 51%) reported they had insufficient knowledge of risks of FGCS procedures and 35% (95% CI 29% to 41%) reported seeing females younger than 18 years of age requesting FGCS. Just over half (56%, 95% CI 51% to 60%) of the GPs felt that women should be counselled before making a referral for FGCS. More than half the GPs suspected moderate to severe psychological disturbance in their patients requesting FGCS.

**Conclusion**

This is the largest survey of GPs exploring this topic. GPs see women of all ages presenting with genital anatomy concerns and in those who request FGCS, GPs often suspected a range of mental health difficulties. GPs require greater education to support their patients who request FGCS.

**References**

1.Michala L, Liao L-M, Creighton S. Female genital cosmetic surgery: how can clinicians act in women's best interests? Obstet Gynaecol 2012;14:203–6. doi:10.1111/j.1744-4667.2012.00121.x