

SURGERY

EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH DISORDERS OF SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: *The nomenclature, classification, understanding and management of disorders of sexual development (differences of sex development) keep evolving. It is essential to manage them at specialized medical centers involving a multidisciplinary team. Immediately after confirming the diagnosis, the parents should be offered counseling and included in decision making. Sex assignment is dependent on many factors and should be postponed until a complete diagnostic assessment has been performed. Achieving optimal outcomes requires open and transparent dialogue with the family. Delaying the interventions can enable the patient to be involved in the decision process.*

Keywords: *Intersex, Ambiguous genitalia, Disorders of sexual development, Differences of sexual development*

Points to Remember

- *The newer terminology for DSD refers to differences of sexual development.*
- *Molecular genetics and gene sequencing are being widely used in the diagnosis.*
- *Multidisciplinary team is essential in the management.*
- *Sex assignment should be postponed until all information is available and all stake holders are informed/ counseled.*
- *Medical management may be needed lifelong and transitional care should be offered to adolescents. Surgical management is delayed as long as possible so that informed decisions can be made by the patient.*

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