

Female genital cosmetic surgery (FGCS) is receiving increasing attention from the medical community, the media and the general public. FGCS covers a variety of procedures, including labia minora reductions.

Aesthetic surgery is used as a tool for altering the human presentation as women are seeking surgery for functional, esthetic, or various reasons.

The procedures have been criticized as a medicalization of sexuality, and a way to conform to increasingly unrealistic physical ideals.

Opponents claim that safety and efficacy of the procedures have not been sufficiently investigated and documented.

Supporters claim the procedures can help women, who experience vulva hypertrophical and impaires sexual satisfaction, to become normal or to be able to engage in sexual activity. Psychological benefits such as improved body image and self-esteem are highlighted.

The presentation wil focus on the motivations for the substantial increase in FGCS procedures? Are some more legitimate than others? What medical and ethical considerations should be made by health care providers and regulators? What are the physical as well as psychological risks? What guidelines exist? How is the legislation in different countries?