



THE RUBICON SOCIETY

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

THE CHROMOSOME DEBATE

For the first eight to ten weeks after conception, the foetus possesses both female and male characteristics. After this time one set of characteristics will predominate over the other and the foetus develops into either female or male.

Every foetus derives one gender chromosome from the mother – X. The second gender chromosome comes from the father. This can be either X or Y. A foetus having X and Y chromosomes will go on to develop into a male as the presence of the Y chromosome triggers hormones that will ensure correct development of the brain and genitalia. A typical XY foetus will, in theory, go on to develop male characteristics with matching brain in harmony. This child will then grow up to identify as male and never question this.

Like wise a typical XX foetus will go on to develop as female with brain and physical characteristics in harmony, as the presence of two X's, in theory, will ensure correct development. This child then, will grow up to identify as female and never question this.

So far, so good. At birth we can then be identified as female (XX) or male (XY). This allows us to be categorised and our sex, as determined by our physical characteristics, can then be entered on birth certificates. We are then, effectively assigned at birth by our visual sexual genitalia and the brain, which obviously cannot be seen, is assumed to be in agreement with this state of affairs.

Most people have no problem with this and, since this is true for most, it is assumed true for all.

However, there are instances where this is not true. It is estimated that one in eighty babies is born with some type of sex or gender anomaly. The reason for this could be that the mother has, during pregnancy, absorbed additional hormones and, in effect, has overdosed the foetus. Alternatively, it could be that the foetus is insensitive, to some degree, to the effect of certain hormones.



Therefore, it could be argued that those of us who are gender dysphoric, are so because, although our bodies may exhibit the characteristics of one sex, our brains are of the opposite sex and simply do not match. For many people, this presents only a slight problem and can be easily controlled. For others, however, it is an overwhelming problem that literally blights lives, preventing people from living fulfilled and productive lives. For people who find themselves in the latter category, the only solution is to correct the visible defect by undergoing Gender Reassignment Surgery. Only then, when physical characteristics match the brain, can they progress and live life to the full.

There are also other conditions associated with chromosome insensitivity. For instance, a person with complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome, called cAIS, will have XY chromosomes. The presence of the Y chromosome may lead you to expect this person to be male. However, because of insensitivity, the child is born with the physical characteristics of a female and the brain of a female. She will identify as female and not exhibit any signs of gender dysphoria. She will, however, have no uterus and possibly a shortened or no vagina and testes that failed to descend. Only at puberty will this condition come to light as, menstruation will not occur.

It is also possible to have variants of this condition. Partial AIS can occur in various degrees and lead to the child being born 'indeterminate'. In these cases, the child is usually reassigned shortly after birth. This procedure, however, can be counterproductive as it is possible to store up tremendous psychological problems for those wrongly assigned. The theory of 'nurture over nature', has long since been disproven.

So, as you see, what you see is not always what you get. This is a vastly complicated area about which, the general public, and indeed, many GP's and health service professionals know nothing whatsoever about. So please, when, not if, you come into contact with those who have been down this road, please bear this in mind.