

Draft Resolution by Women's Institute Declaration
No to NHS "Chest Masculinising" Surgeries



Title of Resolution: No to NHS "Chest Masculinising" Surgeries for Women

Wording of Resolution: This meeting calls for the NHS to stop conducting medically unnecessary double mastectomies on women who believe they are men, and for these women to be given counselling for them to accept their female body.

The Issue: Currently double mastectomies are available on the NHS as part of "gender affirming care". This means women have both breasts removed and their nipples repositioned in order to look like a man. This surgery is unnecessary as there is no proof that it will help to alleviate gender dysphoria and often the dysphoria will move to a different part of the body, and more highly invasive surgeries will be sought. Some are told if they change their mind they can have more surgery to reverse the procedure (breast reconstruction) although their breasts will not be able to support breastfeeding and implants can lead to other medical complications.

According to the NHS the risks are:

Thick, obvious scarring
Unevenly shaped chest or nipples, or differences between your chest
Wound healing problems
Loss of nipple sensation
Being permanently unable to breastfeed
Losing blood supply to part of the skin, fat or nipple, causing problems such as a lumpy chest if the area dies (necrosis)
Excess skin left around the scars, which may need to be surgically removed
Bleeding inside the remaining tissue (haematoma) – this generally happens within the first 24 hours after the operation
Also, any type of operation carries a small risk of:

Excessive bleeding
Infection
An allergic reaction to the anaesthetic
A blood clot forming in the deep veins

Objectives: To ensure women who want this surgery fully understand it is irreversible, to ensure medical professionals return to "first do no harm"

Potential:

According to the Telegraph at least 1,000 double mastectomies are carried out every year, as many as 80% are young women between 17 and 25. An estimated cost of this is £500,000/year. The long term harm of having healthy body parts removed are known, especially if a woman wishes to have a baby and is unable to breast feed due to the removal of her breasts.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/gender-dysphoria/treatment/>

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<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cosmetic-procedures/cosmetic-surgery/breast-reduction-female/>

<https://archive.is/20250214210911/https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/02/10/revealed-thousands-of-trans-surgeries-carried-out-by-nhs/>

<https://archive.is/yftaW>