Gender dysphoria occurs when there is a conflict between a person's physical gender and the gender he or she identifies with. For example, a person who is physically a boy may actually feel and act like a girl. The person is very uncomfortable with the gender they were born as.

Causes

Gender dysphoria used to be known as gender identity disorder.

People with gender dysphoria may act as members of the opposite sex. Gender dysphoria may affect a person's:

- Choice of sexual partners
- Mannerisms, behavior, and dress
- Self-concept

Gender dysphoria is not the same as homosexuality.

Identity conflicts need to continue over time to be considered gender dysphoria. How the gender conflict occurs is different in each person. For example, some people may cross-dress while others want sex-change surgery. Some people of one gender privately identify more with the other gender.

People who are born with ambiguous genitalia, which can raise questions about their gender, may develop gender dysphoria.

The cause of gender dysphoria is unknown. Hormones in the womb, genes, social and environmental factors (such as parenting) may be involved.