



Disorders/Differences of sexual development

Disorders/Differences of sexual development, sometimes referred to as DSD, refer to a congenital condition in which development of chromosomal, gonadal, or anatomical sex is atypical. Genital anomalies vary in degree of severity.

Classification of DSD:

Most DSDs can be categorized into one of the following groups:

Virilized 46, XX female

Undervirilized 46, XY male

Chromosomal or gonadal intersex

Patients with disorders/differences of sexual development may present:

1. as a newborn with ambiguous genitalia
2. with inappropriate pubertal development
3. with delayed pubertal development
4. later in life with infertility

The accurate diagnosis of a child with disorders/differences of sexual development is a challenging process. Treatment of a child with DSD should start by assuring the family that their child will likely become a well-adjusted, functional member of society. When test results are back, specialists will explain the results to you. This decision may include postponing treatment until a child is able to provide his or her input. Most children do not need emergency treatment for DSD.