Vaginal carcinoma in a female-to-male transsexual.

Sex reassignment surgery (SRS) can be considered a reasonable and secure treatment for transsexualism, today. Because the population of patients who have received SRS is growing steadily, it can be expected that the number of patients who present with diseases specific to their original gender will increase as well. In female-to-male transsexuals, vaginal cancer has not been reported so far. This article reports, to our knowledge, the first case of a female-to-male transsexual who developed vaginal cancer. Eighteen years after receiving female-to-male SRS, the patient presented with vaginal cancer, which infiltrated rectum and bladder and also showed involvement of inguinal lymph nodes. Surgery consisted of an anterior and posterior pelvic demolition and extended lymphadenectomy with preservation of the penid and reconstruction of the pelvic defect with multiple flaps. The tumor was removed completely (R0), and 2 years after surgery, the patient has no signs or symptoms of tumor recurrence and enjoys good quality of life. In SRS patients, diseases of their original gender should always be considered and patients should be encouraged to participate in screening programs. When choosing the surgical approach for SRS, the risks for developing cancer from remaining structures of the genetic gender should be considered. Of course, removal of e.g., ovaries, cervix and vagina, will prevent cancer of these structures. When it comes to surgery
in SRS patients with malignancies, an interdisciplinary approach should be chosen.