INVESTIGATION OF TRANSGENDER MEDICAL AND SURGICAL THERAPIES
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Currently, there are over 700,000 transgender individuals in the United States. According to the Williams Institute, the transgender identity is defined by those who identify themselves as the sex opposite from their biological birth sex. Health disparities amongst this community have been a direct result of a poor understanding of the quality of life and necessities of transgender specific health care services. With limited data, knowledge, insufficient training, and awareness, providers aren’t fully addressing the health care needs of the community.

The purpose of this multi-disciplinary research project is to aid in the understanding of the self-perceived medical necessity of transgender specific health care services. Additionally, our purpose also aims to understand the impact of quality of life with regards to transgender health care. Due to the lack of transgender specific medical research, we compiled a variety of validated surveys from organizations that contained questions pertinent to our fields of study. The surveys contained questions specific to the following areas: pre and postoperative patient satisfaction, quality of life, hormone replacement satisfaction and perceived efficacy, and basic demographics. We then implemented these questions into surveys specific to the transgender community to better understand their health care needs.

The target patient population for this study is transgender identified individuals currently undergoing or potentially seeking medical and surgical therapies specific to affirming their identity. As guidelines develop to aid in the treatment of this patient population, we intend to survey their health and health care experiences throughout the transition process. The anticipated results we expect to receive will expand the scope of research on the transgender community, increase the awareness of the disparity specific to transgender health, and broaden the understanding of the quality of life and health care needs.