Gender Identity Disorder Websites

Reviewed & Critiqued by

Emily Vargas

Spring 2011


   When an individual types “gender identity disorder” into the Google search engine, this is the first link that pops up, directly above the Wikipedia page for GID. The site begins with a definition of GID that is condensed but accurate. The website also covers the causes, incidences, and risk factors of GID, followed by the symptoms, signs, prognosis, complications (or co-morbidities), and finally lists a few resources for further information as well as a short statement on contacting your health provider. The article was reviewed by three authors – all of whom are licensed psychiatrists.

   Overall, the website is very brief and only minimally helpful for the individual seeking detailed information about GID. The three resources listed at the bottom of the page are written in APA format and are not hyperlinked to the actual articles, which is not user-friendly. An individual seeking more information would have a difficult time finding it through the PubMed website.


   The second website that pops up in a Google search for GID, and one of the most frequently utilized sites, is a Wikipedia page. The opening section describes GID as a formal diagnosis and explains the difference between GID in adults and GID in children. The opening also touches on the controversy that GID should be considered a mental disorder. The web page goes on to discuss the diagnostic criteria (from the DSM-IV-TR), treatment, as well as the controversy more in depth. The website also lists a more extensive list of references, with links, and also provides some external links as well as a section of related topics (GID in children and a list of transgender-related topics).

   While there is plenty of accurate and detailed information to be found on the Wikipedia site, the nature of the website is unreliable. The site is written and updated by users, and while most of the time the articles are correct, the information is unfortunately not suitable as a source on its own. It is recommended that Wikipedia be used as a starting point for individuals who are seeking information.
http://www.webmd.com/sex/gender-identity-disorder

WebMD provides a lot of useful information that is consistent with the DSM-IV-TR. The website is broken down into common questions about GID and the answer: What causes GID? How common is GID? What are the symptoms of GID? How is GID diagnosed? How is GID treated? What are the complications of GID? Each section provides succinct information about the topic. The only problem with WebMD is that it does not provide helpful links for more information. The information was reviewed by an author with an MD, but does not list any other identifying information (such as the affiliated institution or license). The website states at the bottom of the page that it “does not provide medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment”, however, the information provided could be very useful for an individual who wanted a brief overview of GID.


This website follows the exact same text as the PubMed Health website. The sites seem to be related in some way and are both claim to be of A.D.A.M. quality – the American Accreditation HealthCare Commission’s accreditation program is “an independent audit to verify that A.D.A.M. follows rigorous standards of quality and accountability”. The information is very basic, but does follow the description of GID found in the DSM-IV-TR.

http://www.psychologytoday.com/conditions/gender-identity-disorder

The GID website on Psychology Today provides a very detailed overview of the disorder. At the top of the page, there are four tabs: Definition, Symptoms, Causes, and Treatments. Each tab opens a page of thorough information about that aspect of the disorder. The Definition tab provides an accurate description of GID, including touching on some of the associated features and co-morbidities of the disorder, such as isolation and low self-esteem. The Symptoms tab provides information on the qualifications for both adults and children as well as the DSM-IV-TR two-point qualification for the clinical diagnosis. The Causes tab discusses age of onset for the disorder as well as proposed theories for the cause of the disorder, although none are supported with research. Finally, the Treatments section recommends individual or group counseling.

All of the information provided by Psychology Today seems to be in accordance of the DSM definition. Of all the sites reviewed, the ease of navigation and the quality of the information was the best on this website. The site does have a list of related articles listed on the
page, but it would be useful to include a more extensive list of resources for individuals seeking further information.