



Auer M.<sup>1</sup>, Fuss J.<sup>2</sup>, Höhe N.<sup>3</sup>, Stalla GK<sup>1</sup>, Sievers C.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Clinical Neuroendocrinology, Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Munich  
<sup>2</sup> Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim  
<sup>3</sup> Department of Molecular Psychology, Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Munich

### Introduction

**Sexual orientation (SO)** in the general population is usually considered to be determined in early life and to be **virtually unchangeable** in the course of adulthood. In contrast, some **transgender** individuals **report a change in their sexual orientation**. The reason for this phenomenon is unknown.



Sexual Orientation

Usual order of transition-events in the transgender population

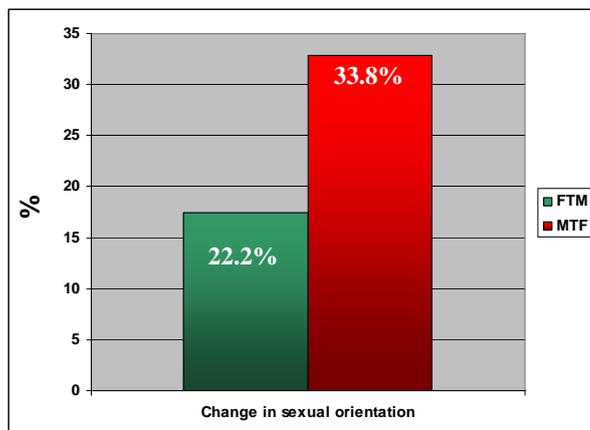


### Methods

**70 male-to-female (MtF)** and **45 female-to-male-transsexuals (FtM)** completed **questionnaires** on history of their gender transition phase and **sexual orientation in the context of transition**.

### Results

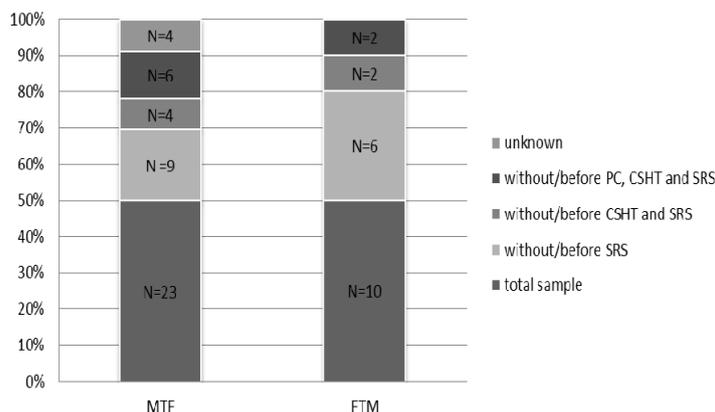
#### Frequency of Change of Sexual Orientation (N= 115):



#### Kind of change in sexual orientation (N=33):

	n	%
<b>MtF</b>		
total	23	100
from being attracted to		
men towards women ( <i>homosexual towards heterosexual</i> )	2	8.7
men towards both ( <i>homosexual towards bisexual</i> )	1	4.3
women towards men ( <i>heterosexual towards homosexual</i> )	6	<b>26.1</b>
women towards both ( <i>heterosexual towards bisexual</i> )	8	<b>34.8</b>
neither towards men ( <i>asexual towards homosexual</i> )	1	4.3
neither towards both ( <i>asexual towards bisexual</i> )	1	4.3
women towards neither ( <i>homosexual towards asexual</i> )	1	4.3
unknown	3	13.0
<b>FtM</b>		
total	10	100
from being attracted to		
men towards women ( <i>heterosexual towards homosexual</i> )	4	<b>40.0</b>
men towards both ( <i>heterosexual towards bisexual</i> )	0	0.0
women towards men ( <i>homosexual towards heterosexual</i> )	3	<b>30.0</b>
women towards both ( <i>homosexual towards bisexual</i> )	3	<b>30.0</b>

#### When did sexual orientation change? (N=33):



SRS: Sex reassignment surgery  
 CSHT: Cross-sex hormone treatment  
 PC: Psychological counselling

### Conclusion

In contrast to earlier reports, we showed that a change in sexual orientation is frequent and does not solely occur in the context of particular transition events. Qualitative reports suggest that the individual's biography as well as concept of sexual orientation itself may explain differences in this phenomenon.

### Literature

Lawrence A. A., Latty E. M., Chivers M. L., Bailey J. M. (2005). *Measurement of Sexual Arousal in Postoperative Male-to-Female Transsexuals Using Vaginal Photoplethysmography*. Archives of Sexual Behavior, 2, 135-145.  
 Lawrence, A. A. (2010). *Sexual Orientation versus Age of Onset as Bases for Typologies (Subtypes) for Gender Identity Disorder in Adolescents and Adults*. Archives of Sexual Behavior, 2, 514-545.  
 Meier S. C., Pardo S. T., Labuski C., & Babcock J. (2013). *Measures of Clinical Health among Female-to-Male Transgender Persons as a Function of Sexual Orientation*. Archives of Sexual Behavior, 3, 463-474.