Abstract

The main topic of this thesis is investigation of partner preferences and sexual behavior of female-to-male transsexuals. Number of previous studies showed that on average several partner preferences differ between men and women, and our goal was to determine if these preferences vary in female-to-male transsexuals during the process of sex change. The process of sex change includes intensive exposures to external levels of sex hormones, psychological therapy, and the transformation of their social role and overall life changes. Based on review of the scientific literature dealing with transsexuality, partner preferences and the potential impact of hormone therapy on sexually dimorphic traits, we developed a questionnaire focusing on partner preference and behavior. We obtained data from 36 heterosexual men transsexual female-to-male (i.e., sexual orientation focused on women) who were divided into three groups according to whether they were prior hormonal therapy (N = 11), whether they have already started hormone therapy sex but not yet surgical change (N = 11) and whether they were already after hormonal and surgical gender conversion (N = 14). In addition, we obtained data from 16 heterosexual non-transsexual men as a control group. Based on my previous bachelor research and literature review, we suggested that the partner preferences of transsexual men would be on average alike with non-transsexual controls, but we also expected some variations associated with fluctuations in sex hormone levels during the process of sex change. In the preferences of personality characteristics, there were no linear changes in individual groups of transsexuals, although transsexual men before and during the start of hormonal sex change preferred greater tolerance in their potential partners than other groups of men. Furthermore, we found differences in the expected direction in the preferences of physical features suggesting fertility of potential female partners, also in self-esteem of the transsexual participants, and in preferred dominant role in their relationships. These differences can be interpreted as a result of the impact of changes in current levels of sex hormones and changes because of transsexuality as such.

Key words: transsexuality, partner preferences, sex change process, hormonal therapy, attractiveness, sociosexuality