



## **ABSTRACT ZUM WEBINAR MIT PAUL WOOD "The cutting edge – from labiaplasty to FGM (European perspective)"**

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### **The Changing Face of the Vulva**

This presentation, which is in two parts, addresses two main areas of vulval challenges in today's clinical practice.

Both are linked because they involve surgical interventions – the first classified as mutilation, the second as cosmetic enhancement.

Both are relevant to European practice and both require close scrutiny. There is also an overlap between the two when it comes to legislation.

Both are explored in a European context.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is approached with a view to understanding the origins and cultural background of FGM, an understanding of the awareness of the impact of migration in Europe and the legislative implications.

FGM is presented initially from the global perspective, looking at classification and regional practices, and is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and the age of 15 years.

The cultural reasons for FGM are set out and the increasing medicalisation of FGM highlighted.

The presentation includes work carried out by the EU and the European Institute for Gender Equality including estimation of risk of FGM in different countries.

National legislation and guidelines are considered in Europe and beyond with an insight into the challenges of successful convictions for breaking the law.

The potential overlap between FGM and female genital cosmetic surgery (FGCS) is defined and an attempt made to clarify the legal difference between the two interventions.

This leads into the historical increasing trend towards FGCS, aims to establish norms and the reasons for these requests. The structure and function of the labia are defined with an exploration of self-assessment and objective measures as well as the impact of the www.

Practical advice, educational models and approaches to requests for elective vulval surgery specifically in adolescents are set out within the presentation. Surgical options for labiaplasty are presented along with available outcome data and complication rates.

The presentation therefore covers the impact of FGM and FGCS in current clinical practice.

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