Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery (FGCS) is any procedure not medically indicated which aims to achieve aesthetic or functional aspects of a woman’s genitalia.

Medicare Australia figures indicate the number of women undergoing FGCS has increased 140 percent in the past ten years, with an out rise in the incidence of disease conditions that warrant surgery. The fastest increase is in women aged 15-25 years.

General Practitioners are increasingly seeing patients presenting with concerns about the appearance of their genitalia and or seeking surgery.

The RACGP guide aims to help inform GPs and health professionals about FGCS; factors influencing demand, and provide a set of recommendations on how to manage women requesting referral for FGCS or expressing concern regarding their genitalia.

Exploration of issues revealed: gaps in research, policy, education, practice and training for all parties concerned in the care of women.

**Background issue**

**Research**

Current research: ‘Female genital cosmetic surgery and the role of the General Practitioner in its management’, Alfred Hospital project number 348/15, M Simonis, J Ong, R Manocha.

**Education & Practice**

**Method:** Medline and PubMed were searched for relevant articles until saturation was achieved in 2015. These were then hand searched. Time frame restrictions were not applied.

**Research Findings:** There is a paucity of high quality evidence in the area of FGCS. Therefore, all recommendations in this document should be considered at National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) practice point level until further research is conducted.

**Conclusion:** Climbing demand for FGCS has resulted in an urgent need to provide guidance to the profession. Rate of increase for FGCS in the UK, USA, Western Europe, Australia are similar. As research continues, it will serve to expand and broaden our understanding of the issues raised.

**New Frontier**

- advocacy
- continuing education and training of health professionals and people at frontline of women's health- beauty industry including beauty therapists
- policy

**References:**