



# 16-Year-Old Boy Undergoes Sex Change

Tuesday , January 12, 2010

MADRID —

A doctor says a 16-year-old boy has become Spain's first minor to undergo a sex change operation.

Reconstructive surgeon Ivan Manero says the procedure was carried out three weeks ago and the patient is doing fine.

Manero told a press conference Tuesday in Barcelona that the boy had felt from a very young age that he was actually female.

Manero said the patient had been undergoing hormonal and psychiatric treatment for two years, after deciding he wanted to undergo surgery to have the body of a woman.

The patient's name has not been disclosed.

The surgery was carried out under authorization from a judge, as required by Spanish law in the case of minors seeking such an operation.

## Task1 | Discuss the questions with your partner.

- 1) If you were the boy's parent, would you allow him to change his sex at the age of sixteen?
- 2) At what age is it appropriate to:
  - a) change sex
  - b) change religion
  - c) start having sex
  - d) start drinking alcohol
  - e) start smoking
  - f) start working for money
  - g) have a child
  - h) get married
  - i) get a driving license

**Task2 | Complete the sentences without looking back at the text on the other side of the paper.**

A doctor says a 16-year-old boy has become Spain's first minor to **1)** \_\_\_\_\_ a sex change operation.

**2)** \_\_\_\_\_ surgeon Ivan Manero says the **3)** \_\_\_\_\_ was carried out three weeks ago and the patient is **4)** \_\_\_\_\_ fine.

Manero told a press conference Tuesday in Barcelona that the boy had felt from a very young age that he was **5)** \_\_\_\_\_ female.

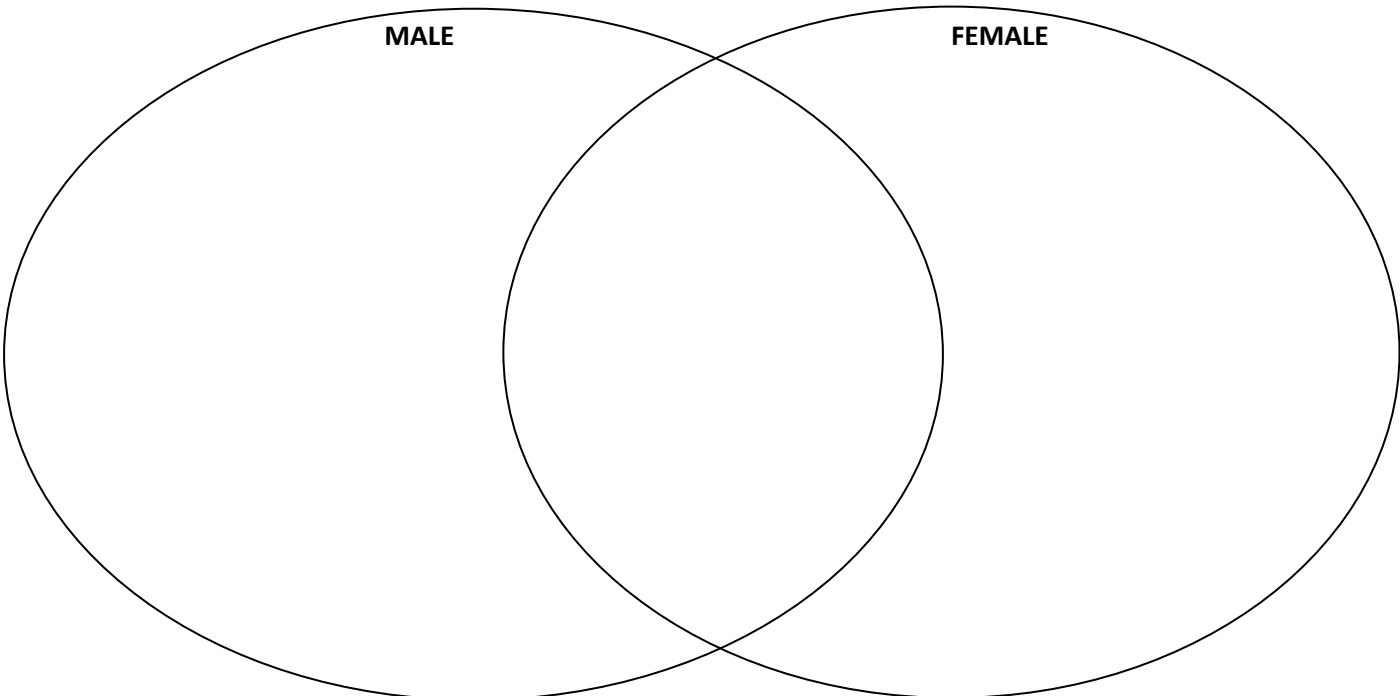
Manero said the patient had been undergoing hormonal and psychiatric **6)** \_\_\_\_\_ for two years, after deciding he wanted to undergo surgery to have the body of a woman.

The patient's name has not been **7)** \_\_\_\_\_.

The surgery was **8)** \_\_\_\_\_ out under authorization from a judge, as required by Spanish law in the case of **9)** \_\_\_\_\_ seeking such an operation.

**Task 3 | Put words from the list into the diagram below, according to whether you think these character traits are predominantly male, or female, or both male and female. Use a dictionary if necessary.**

- gentle* *passionate* *reckless* *practical* *sensitive* *aggressive* *mysterious* *emotional*
- logical* *reliable* *talkative* *manipulative* *devious* *straightforward* *sympathetic*
- loving* *efficient* *intuitive*



**Task 4 | Work in pairs. Discuss how you would feel and what you would do in the following situations.**

- 1 A close friend is about to get married. You have met their fiancé and like them very much. A week before the wedding your friend tells you (s)he is actually marrying a transsexual. **Would it make any difference if your friend is a man marrying a transsexual woman or a woman marrying a transsexual man?**
  
- 2 You are sitting in a bar at a table on your own. A woman comes and sits at the same table and you start chatting. After a while you notice that she has very big hands, rather a deep voice and obviously shaves. **How would you react? Would you feel offended?**
  
- 3 One of your friends is having a party. She rings you up and tells you that all the men have to dress as women and all the women have to dress as men. **Would you accept an invitation? Would you feel awkward?**
  
- 4 You have offered an important job in your company to a well-qualified woman who performed very well at interview. She accepts the job and at the same time she says: "Perhaps I should tell you that until three years ago I was a man." **Would you hire her? Why / not? What problems might hiring her cause?**
  
- 5 Your best friend suddenly tells you that (s)he is going to have a sex change operation. This is a complete surprise as your friend has never told you of any worries about gender identity. **What would you suggest to your friend? Would your attitude to this person change?**

**Task 5 | Use the dictionary. What is the difference between the nouns "sex" and "gender"?**

**Task 6 | Now close the dictionaries and write your own definitions of the two words in the space below.**