

**For Immediate Release**

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No information? No consent.

**Contact:**

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**HERS Gives Gynecologists Female Anatomy Lesson:  
12-Minute Video To Save More Than \$17B/year**

There are 22 million women living in America today without their reproductive sex organs. A statistically insignificant number of men have had their sex organs removed, even though the rate of cancer in the male and female organs is nearly identical.<sup>1</sup>

The female reproductive sex organs are internal...the functions are not visible. Consequently, what is often referred to as the most over-utilized and unwarranted surgery remains the most commonly performed non-obstetric surgery in America, at a cost of \$17B/year.<sup>2</sup>

A new 12-minute female anatomy video from the HERS Foundation makes the female organs and their functions visible. "Female Anatomy: the Functions of the Female Organs" provides an essential component of the educational process known as *informed* consent, which is necessary for women to understand the physical consequences of hysterectomy (removal of the uterus) and oophorectomy (removal of the ovaries, the female gonads, which is castration).

The HERS Foundation has counseled over 800,000 women. Of the women who were provided with the information contained in this video, 98% did not proceed with hysterectomy and pursued conservative treatment. Many women realized no treatment was needed at all. In an ongoing HERS survey begun in 1991, 99.7% of women reported that they were not informed of the functions of the female organs or the consequences of their removal and said they would not have proceeded with the surgery had this information been provided to them.

HERS' working model of educating women and girls is unique because it gives them control of their own bodies, free to review information at their own pace and

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>2</sup> HERS Foundation. Conservative estimate of immediate hospital and doctor-related charges. Does not include additional costs incurred for treatment of chronic adverse effects of the surgery, such as heart disease (3x greater incidence if only the uterus is removed, 7x greater if the ovaries are removed), osteoporosis, and loss of income for the 50% of women who are unable to maintain previous employment.

in their own time. Doctors must be compelled to provide a DVD of this video to women prior to asking them to sign a consent form for the removal of their female organs.

Can you imagine a country where the sex organs are removed from 622,000 mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends each year? That country isn't in Africa or Asia or South America. It's the United States of America...simply because they were deprived of 12 minutes of information.

**Visit [www.hersfoundation.org/anatomy](http://www.hersfoundation.org/anatomy) to view the video. The attached letter has been sent to the chairman and faculty of the Ob/Gyn departments of ten of the top ranked medical schools in America, the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, and the National Institutes of Health:**

Baylor College of Medicine:

Dale Brown, Jr., MD, Interim Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology, (713) 798-7500

Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons:

Mary E. D'Alton, MD, Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology, (212) 305-3101

Duke University School of Medicine:

Haywood Laverne Brown, MD, Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology, (919) 684-4008

Harvard Medical School:

Robert L. Barbieri, MD, Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology, (617) 732-4222

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine:

Harold E. Fox, MD, Chair, Gynecology & Obstetrics, (410) 614-0178

University of Michigan Medicine School:

Timothy R. B. Johnson, MD, Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology (734) 764-8123

Northwestern University School of Medicine:

Sherman Elias, M.D., Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology, (312) 926-7639

Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine:

George A. Macones, MD, Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology, (314) 362-7135

University of Washington School of Medicine:

David A. Eschenbach, MD, Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology, (206) 616-8305

UCLA School of Medicine:

Gautam Chaudhuri, MD, Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology, (310) 206-6575

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine:

Nancy C. Chescheir, MD, Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology, (615) 322 3385

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American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology:

Kenneth L. Noller, MD, President; Douglas H. Kirkpatrick, MD, President-Elect; Peter A. Schwartz, MD, Vice President, (202) 638-5577

National Institutes of Health:

Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, Director, (301) 496-4000

Raynard S. Kington, MD, Deputy Director; Norka Ruiz Bravo, MD, Deputy Director; &

Michael Gottesman, MD, Deputy Director, (301) 496-4000

Vivian Pinn, MD, Director of Office on Research on Women's Health, (301) 402-1770

(attached letter >> )

[see list of recipients on page 2 of this press release]

\_\_\_\_\_, MD  
Chairman, Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Hospital  
Address  
City, State, Zip

Dear Dr. \_\_\_\_\_,

An essential component of the educational process of informed consent for hysterectomy is now available to the general public in “Female Anatomy: the Functions of the Female Organs,” a new educational video from the HERS Foundation. The video can be viewed at [www.hersfoundation.com/anatomy](http://www.hersfoundation.com/anatomy).

The HERS Foundation is an independent, non-profit women’s health education organization dedicated to educating the public about the alternatives to and consequences of hysterectomy and female castration. HERS has counseled more than 800,000 women and has provided information to millions of people worldwide. In an ongoing HERS survey begun in 1991, 99.7% of women reported that they were not informed of the functions of the female organs or the consequences of their removal and said they would not have proceeded with the surgery had this information been provided to them.

Because it is a critical component of the educational process of informed consent, failure to provide the information contained in this 12-minute video prior to asking a woman to sign a consent form for hysterectomy or castration constitutes lack of informed consent, which is a breach of duty that invalidates consent.

“Female Anatomy: the Functions of the Female Organs” fills that information gap. Many doctors have requested the video from HERS. Make it available to every woman to whom you recommend the removal of the uterus or ovaries by contacting HERS at [hersfdn@earthlink.net](mailto:hersfdn@earthlink.net).

Sincerely,

Nora W. Coffey, President  
HERS Foundation

Cc Ob/Gyn Department:

[Ob/Gyn staff of teaching hospital]