

40% could not be followed up

Discussion

The response-rate remains a difficult point in follow-up studies. Nearly 60% of our study population could be traced and was willing to cooperate, a number comparable to the series in Pfäfflin and Junge (1992). Like in that study, more male-to-females were unable to be contacted because many had moved away without leaving any possibility to be traced. They obviously wanted to put their past behind them. Many had abandoned their familiar surroundings and friends. The longer the postoperative period, the lower the response-rate. Unfortunately, this implies a bias that is difficult to avoid, as an investigator can never obtain the current profiles of those who fail to respond.

[De Cuyper, Long-term follow-up: psychosocial outcome of Belgian transsexuals after sex reassignment surgery \(2006\)](#)

My note: Could this be where the burgeoning group of detransitioners have been hiding in the studies?