

Gender Identity Disorder... or Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Social factors

The poor understanding of social relationships which is characteristic of individuals with ASD, led Landen and Rasmussen (1997) to suggest that GD could develop as a consequence of this difficulty in social interactions. A boy with ASD who had been bullied by other boys might have developed a feeling of belonging to the female sex out of aversion to the male gender (Tateno et al., 2008). Indeed, this was mentioned by one adolescent in a sample of individuals with co-occurring GD and ASD who stated that he had always had the feeling of being different from his peers – which he attributed to GD (de Vries et al., 2010). **Parkinson** (2014) also described two birth-assigned men who had feelings of being different and interpreted these feelings as GD and therefore requested gender reassignment therapies. Caution was warranted, however, as these feelings turned out not to belong to a true GD but more likely to ASD.

[Van Der Miesen, Gender dysphoria and autism spectrum disorder: A narrative review \(2015\)](#)