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1304 Stanford will continue sex-change operations

STANFORD (UPI) — Stanford University Medical Center will continue to perform sex-change operations despite a decision by Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore to abandon such surgery.

"Gender-reassignment surgery is highly beneficial in carefully selected cases," said Stanford psychiatrist Dr. Norman Fisk, director of Stanford's Gender Dysphoria Clinic.

"Two years ago we reached almost all of our post-operative patients to do a followup," he said. "The consensus was that none had been harmed, not a single one expressed regret and most described a high improvement in their sexual functioning and subjective happiness."

Fisk's analysis contrasts sharply with the decision at

Johns Hopkins, which helped develop the procedure in 1966. Staff psychiatrist Dr. Jon

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Meyer concluded in a recent paper that the surgery has little benefit in long-term psychiatric treatment.

Fisk said that only about ten percent of the clinic's patients ever undergo surgery. The

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minimum waiting time is two years,

Some 220 patients, mostly men wanting to become women, have undergone surgery since the program's inception eleven years ago.