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and prospective students.

## Psychiatrist Calls Sex Change Surgery Reasonable for Some

Ridder News Service

SAN FRANCISCO — All the returns on sex change surgery aren't in yet, but the expensive, radical operation "is becoming a reasonable therapeutic alternative for selected individuals," a psychiatrist specializing in sex identity research said here.

Whether the operation is physically good or bad for the individual is under evaluation, said Dr. Richard Green, director of the gender identity research treatment program at UCLA.

HOWEVER, of the hundreds of patients outside the United States who have undergone sex changes, the majority have reported they are "better adjusted socially" after surgery, he told the recent California Medical Association convention here.

About 100 sex change operations have been performed in the United States, he said, including some at Stanford University. Results are yet to be known, he said.

Green said there has been a "gradual change" in public attitudes toward the operation — from feelings of loathing or shame to acceptance.

"THE PUBLIC NO longer sees them as freaks, but as exceptional people," he said.

Doctors still don't agree on who makes an "acceptable" candidate for the change, he said, but "bas-

ically it is the individual who is cross-sexually identified" to the point he or she cannot cope with life.

In selecting a patient, doctors now "tend to look ahead to the social role the person will be able to play" in the adopted sex, he said.

**THE OPERATION**, which most persons keep a secret (despite Christine Jorgensen), costs from \$2,000 to \$6,000 depending on complexity of the surgery, Green said.

He said that the surgery can change the patient into a sexually functional person in many cases.