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**Sex-Change Surgery Seems
To Be Successful Therapy**

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 Monday.

Whether the operation itself will be good or bad physically for the individual is still under evaluation, said Dr. Richard Green, director of the Gender Identity Re-

search Treatment Program at UCLA.

However, of the hundreds of patients outside the United States who have undergone sex changes, the majority have reported themselves to be "better adjusted socially" after surgery, he said.

Green spoke at the 103rd Annual Session of the California Medical Assn. at the Hilton Hotel.

About 100 sex change op-

erations 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 lack a "good consensus" as to who makes an "acceptable" candidate for the change, he said, but "basically it is the individual who is cross-sexually identified" to the point he or she cannot cope with life under heredity sexual conditions.

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.

Most successful is the man who is changed to a woman by means of hormones and a surgically created artificial vagina, Green said.