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European Association of Urology

## Letter to the Editor

**Reply to Chen Cheng, Sunxiang Ma, and Yang Liu's Letter to the Editor re: Dan Wood, Andrew Baird, Luca Carmignani, et al. Lifelong Congenital Urology: The Challenges for Patients and Surgeons. Eur Urol 2019;75:1001–7**

We were interested by the comments from Dr. Liu and his team and wish to acknowledge some important issues.

Our publication was written as a position statement to highlight the importance of lifelong care for patients with complex urogenital anomalies [1]. Liu et al highlighted the role of plastic reconstructive surgeons in some types of urogenital reconstruction. They point out the importance of sexual function to patients affected by congenital anomalies [2–4]. They focused on one technique for phalloplasty; there are data that certainly support the use of phalloplasty with good outcomes for congenital anomalies, but the authors of this letter or this large review cannot provide a validated assessment of sexual function [5]. A small series suggests that orgasmic function is good, but comparison with other groups shows less good sensation and fear of seeking sexual contact [6]. We fully recognize the importance of sexual function to many of our patients, but also wish to acknowledge that there are many wider aspects of their lives that are very important. This should certainly form part of the conversation between patients and the health care team in the transition from pediatric to adult care.

One of the major themes of our paper was the importance of multidisciplinary care and thus the ability to tailor care to the needs of an individual patient with the support of a team that would include other health care professionals such as psychologists.

We fully agree with the further themes; there are a range of acquired conditions that need long-term follow-up, but this was outside the focus of our paper. We also agree that validated measures for assessment of outcomes are important. A number of the authors are contributing to research and working within European Reference Networks to support the development of such assessments.

**Conflicts of interest:** The authors have nothing to disclose.

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Dan Wood<sup>a,\*</sup>  
Andrew Baird<sup>b</sup>  
Luca Carmignani<sup>c</sup>  
Gunter De Win<sup>a,d</sup>  
Piet Hoebeke<sup>e</sup>  
Gundela Holmdahl<sup>f</sup>  
Gianantonio Manzoni<sup>g</sup>  
Rien J.M. Nijman<sup>h</sup>  
Claire Taylor<sup>i</sup>  
Serdar Tekgul<sup>j</sup>

<sup>a</sup>University College London Hospitals, London, UK

<sup>b</sup>University Hospital Aintree and Alder Hey NHS Foundation Trusts, Liverpool, UK

<sup>c</sup>Department of Urology, Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy

<sup>d</sup>Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

<sup>e</sup>Department of Urology, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium

<sup>f</sup>Queen Silvia's Children's Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden

<sup>g</sup>UOC Urologia Pediatrica, Fondazione IRCCS Cà Granda, Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milan, Italy

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<sup>h</sup>Department of Urology, University Groningen, University Medical Centre  
Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands  
<sup>i</sup>Guys and St Thomas's Hospital, London, UK  
<sup>j</sup>Division of Paediatric Urology, Department of Urology, Hacettepe University,  
Ankara, Turkey

\*Corresponding author. Adolescent Urology, University College London  
Hospitals, 16–18 Westmoreland Street, London W1G 8PH, UK.  
Tel. +44 773 8624681; Fax: +44 208 3390468.  
E-mail address: [dan.wood1@nhs.net](mailto:dan.wood1@nhs.net) (D. Wood).