

**Giordano's view**

If \_\_\_\_\_, then administering gender reassignment therapy on a person in early adolescence is morally permissible (and obligatory).

? If those conditions are not met, then administering gender reassignment therapy to early adolescents is wrong?

**Some distinctions:**

*Why is (a) false?*

- a. If a patient has said "yes" to a treatment, then it is morally permissible to administer the treatment to that patient.

superficial consent: giving the appearance of consenting (e.g. saying "Yes")

morally relevant consent: the kind of consent which can turn otherwise morally wrong acts into morally permissible ones (to some extent). Morally relevant consent requires:

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autonomy vs freedom (this is not a definition): freedom has to do with having options available, whereas autonomy has to do with being able to make decisions as the result of rational deliberation

negative freedom: the ability to make unconstrained\* decisions

negative autonomy: the ability to make unconstrained\* decisions on the basis of rational deliberation

positive freedom: the ability to successfully realize the intended goals of one's decisions

positive autonomy: the ability to successfully realize goals one sets via rational deliberation

**Some questions about gender reassignment therapy:**

1. Can adolescents give morally relevant consent to this therapy?
  - Can you set a standard for adolescent consent that doesn't say that many/most adults cannot give morally relevant consent?
2. If adolescents can give morally relevant consent to therapy, why does it matter whether or not the therapies are in their best interests? (is it wrong to administer treatments to adolescents who consent, when those are not in their interests)
  - Think about the intrinsic value of freedom/autonomy vs its instrumental value.
  - Think about adults: if an adult consents to treatment that is not in their interests, is it necessarily morally wrong to give them that treatment?
3. If adolescents *cannot* give morally relevant consent, then would it be permissible to administer treatment to them against their wishes, if it were sufficiently in their interests?
  - a) Doctors and psychologists believe that child A will greatly benefit from puberty blocking treatment. However, child A refuses the treatment, out of a desire to "be like everyone else." Doctors and psychologists realize that it is impossible for child A to realize this desire, but are unable to convince the child of this.
  - b) Doctors and psychologists believe that child B will greatly benefit from puberty blocking treatment. However, child B wants a more irreversible intervention, and refuses to agree to anything less.