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Title: Queer Objects: Care in Trans* Hormonal Practices

Abstract:

Hormonal treatments are considered almost mandatory in the different versions of international sex reassignment protocols for transgender health, known as Standards of Care (SoC) and edited by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). In Spain, two years of medical treatment are required in order to acquire legal recognition of sex change in the Spanish national legislation (Law 3/2007). This requirement is translated or understood as hormonal treatment in most cases.

Hormonal technologies have been considered as very efficient technologies and have remained unquestioned in the medical processes of sex reassignment. In other works, I have discussed hormonal treatment for trans people in the medical technologies framework as “blackboxing” processes - using an ANT term -.

Testosterone is one of these hormonal technologies. Testosterone have been considered the most powerful technology in relation to trans* men because, among other things, allows them to be recognized as men in the public space. In this sense, testosterone is a gendered political technology.

In this presentation, I want to show how some trans* activist collectives in the Spanish state are opening testosterone as gendered political object through questioning care practices related to trans health and opening up the debate to the public sphere bringing some questions as: What means apply synthetic testosterone in the body? What is an appropriate dosage and for what? What are the effects and what are the non-desired effects?