

Say No 'Til You Know

Dear Legislators and health policy decision makers:

Can you imagine a country where sex organs are removed from 622,000 mothers, sisters, daughters, lovers, and friends each year? That country is the United States of America. We the undersigned join together to make sure that every woman and girl who is told she needs surgery to remove female sex organs is provided with the HERS Foundation's educational DVD "Female Anatomy: the Functions of the Female Organs."

The purpose of this educational DVD is to inform women that the adverse effects of removing reproductive sex organs is anything but routine, and yet no other part of the human anatomy is removed as frequently as the uterus and ovaries. Hysterectomy is the surgical removal of the uterus, a hormone-responsive reproductive sex organ with lifelong functions that are essential to a woman's health and wellbeing. Oophorectomy is the surgical removal of the ovaries, the female gonads, which is performed on an average of 75% of women at the time of hysterectomy. The medically correct term for removal of the gonads is castration. There are 22 million women alive in this country whose reproductive sex organs have been removed. A statistically insignificant number of men have their sex organs removed, although the rate of cancer in male and female organs is nearly identical.

In a HERS survey of women's experiences with hysterectomy, 99.7% report that doctors neglected to inform women or lied to them about the well-documented adverse effects of the surgery. There simply is no *informed* consent until basic information about female anatomy is provided to women. Therefore, almost all surgeries to remove the uterus and ovaries are unconsented.

Typically women are asked to sign a consent form that lists the procedure to be performed and the most common risks of any major surgery.



Stop the **Unconsented** Removal of Women's Sex Organs **NOW!** Join hundreds of thousands of Women and Men signing this Petition because **Hysterectomy is Forever!**

Go online **NOW** to
WATCH THE DVD and SIGN THE PETITION:
hersfoundation.org/anatomy
or fill out the petition below and mail it to HERS

HERS - Hysterectomy Educational Resources & Services is an independent non-profit women's health education organization

HERS Foundation

Hysterectomy Educational Resources & Services

I support every woman's right to know... By signing this petition, I support legislation compelling every doctor to provide HERS' educational DVD "Female Anatomy: the Functions of the Female Organs" to every woman who is told she needs pelvic surgery, including hysterectomy, oophorectomy, or exploratory surgery of the uterus or ovaries.

Note: *Your information will not be shared or made public in any way and will only be given to legislators.*

*Required information

*Name: _____

*Street: _____ *City: _____ *State: _____ *Zip: _____

Email: _____ Occupation: _____

Mail to: HERS Foundation • 422 Bryn Mawr Avenue • Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 • 610-667-7757

***** MAKE COPIES FOR EVERYONE YOU KNOW SO THEY CAN SIGN THIS PETITION *****

The proposed surgery is usually written-in on the consent form as "exploratory surgery and possible TAH/BSO" (total abdominal hysterectomy and bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy), which means that the uterus and ovaries may be removed during the surgery. Many women are told that they are only consenting to exploratory surgery, but the word "possible" gives doctors permission to remove the reproductive sex organs and creates a legal loophole that protects doctors and hospitals from legal claims. It is not customary to remove organs during other types of exploratory surgery, and yet it is common during exploratory surgery of the female organs. So women and girls are specifically at risk. Furthermore, women are often told to sign the consent form after they have been sedated, just minutes before the surgery.

Clearly, the consent form process itself does not work and is deeply flawed. No woman should be asked to consider consenting to exploratory surgery or the removal of her uterus or ovaries until she is provided with information about female anatomy and the functions of her reproductive sex organs.

**No information?
No consent!**

We the undersigned urge you to enact laws compelling every doctor to provide HERS' educational DVD "Female Anatomy: the Functions of the Female Organs" to every woman and girl who is told she needs pelvic surgery, including exploratory surgery, hysterectomy, or oophorectomy.

Who would deny *any woman* the right to know?

Sincerely,

The Undersigned