



University of Victoria

# Sex, Surgery, Sightseeing and Social Media

## A Thematic Analysis of Reddit Discussions on Decision-Making Behaviours for Gender Affirming Surgeries Abroad

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June 27, 2023

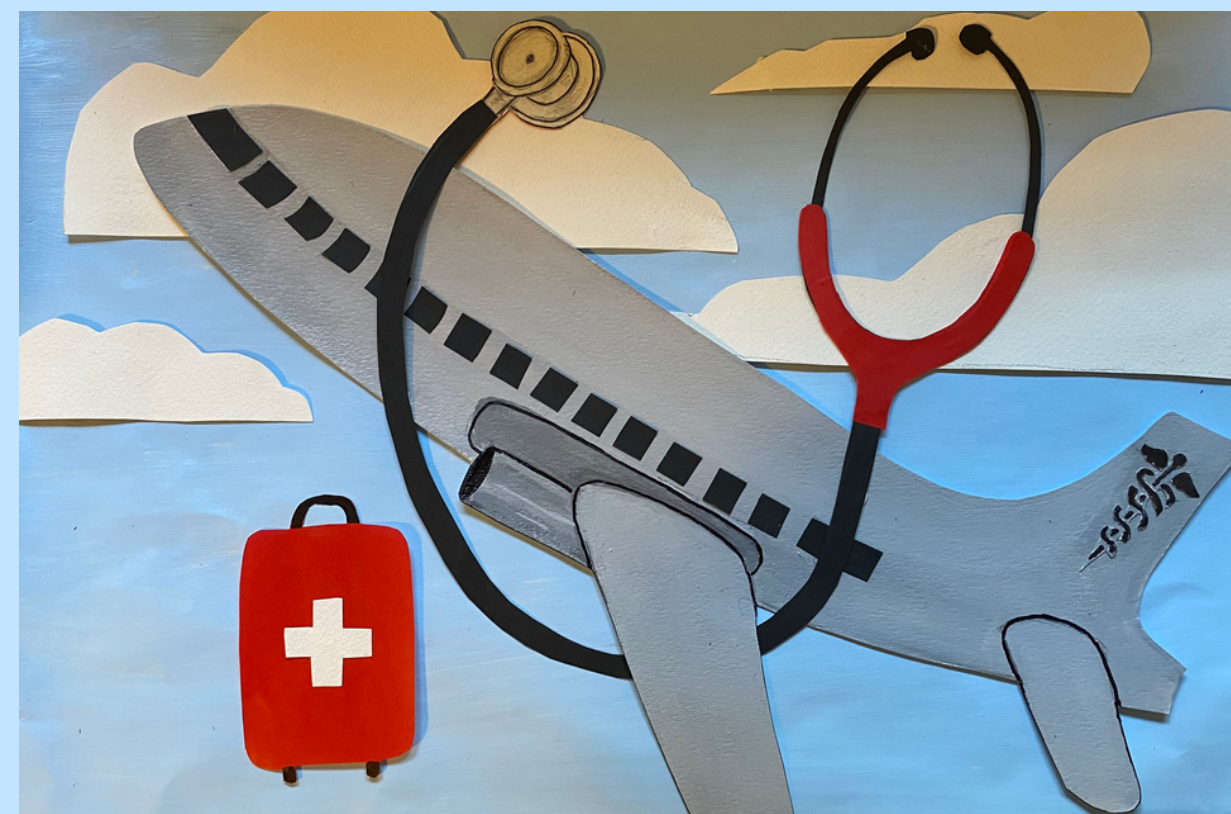
*This research was supported by the Valerie Kuehne Undergraduate Research Awards, University of Victoria, and was supervised by Dr. Athena Madan (Sociology)*

### Cost

- Number of Mentions: 21 (the most significant decision-making factor)
- Factors Impacting Decision-Making: the availability of insurance coverage, expenses related to travel and accommodation, and the overall price of the procedure
- Implications: concept of value for money

### Methodology

This study thematically examined 32 Reddit posts to determine the **factors that affect decision-making about gender affirming surgery (GAS) abroad**: cost, quality, access & availability and comfort.



### Access & Availability

- Number of Mentions: 14
- Factors Impacting Decision-Making: budget considerations, language barriers, restrictions and prohibitions, and wait times
- Implications: driving force of medical tourism for GAS

### Quality

- Number of Mentions: 18
- Factors Impacting Decision-Making: the regulations in certain countries, the reputation of clinics, the results of specific surgeries, and what techniques different surgeons use and their qualifications
- Implications: influence of tangible evidence of successful outcomes

**"It was more than just SRS\*. It was some kind of journey."**



**"It's overwhelming doing research ... so I'm hoping you guys can give me your recommendations."**



### Comfort

- Number of Mentions: 12
- Factors Impacting Decision-Making: amenities of the healthcare facility, cultural competence, food, inclusive language, and social support
- Implications: clinics may have staff who can be hired to act as companions (eg. The Cosmopolis Team)

\*Note: SRS (sex reassignment surgery) is another word for GAS but considered outdated