

Transgender: How the voice represents gender identity¹

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Abstract

The voice and all non-verbal and paraverbal communicative elements convey not only the literal concept of speech, but also profound aspects of personal identity and emotionality. The voice of transgender people often represents a particularly sensitive issue, as it does not correspond to their gender identity. In this article, we aim to explore how voice is studied, and examine the medical, rehabilitative, and communicative approaches that support voice modulation. These interventions play a crucial role in aligning biological characteristics with gender identity and enhancing social interaction – a dimension often compromised for transgender people. In this context, the voice becomes a fundamental component of the gender affirmation journey.

Keywords: transgender; vocal tract; communication; speech therapy; hormone therapy.

¹ Translated into English by Manuela Dettori.