

### What is Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome? (or CAIS)

CAIS is when a child is born looking completely female and with the differences of development hidden physically inside (no uterus, internal gonads and XY chromosomes). There is also partial AIS, where the baby is born with more readily visible *Physical* variations; the degree of variation depends on each individual case.

### What type of Medical care do CAIS women need?

This is best discussed with your medical doctor, but in general, it is understood that if the gonads are **not** causing any issues and are producing enough estrogen, then there is no need to remove them and have to medicate the CAIS patient. If there are concerns, it should be a case by case conversation between patient and doctor.

When the woman is straight and feels she wants to, she may choose to have dialation therapy, if the vaginal canal is shallow. In some cases surgical intervention can be obtained.

### Are women with Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome attracted to men or women?

There is no difference between women with CAIS and average women, the same percentage of straight women versus gay or trans in the regular population *seems to mirror* the CAIS women population. The biggest difference seems to be that Gay or bisexual identified women tend to be more involved in what they call "*Intersex*" activism combined with LGBT related activism.

### What does Difference of Sex Development (DSD) mean?

This term basically mean that someone is born with internal (physical or genetic) or external sex anatomy variations that result in bodies or genetic make-up that does not match precisely typical female or male anatomy. Variations can be in chromosomes, genitals, or internal organs.

There are many different types of variations of DSD's , our founder Dalea has Complete *Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome*, and this is her main focus of work in awareness. Also, we must note, Dalea prefers to use the term "*Variations of sex development, or VOSD*."

### Good to know

The term "*Intersex*" has recently been adopted by some individuals with different VOSD as well as by some members of the gay and trans communities. This does not mean that we should assume that all Girls and Women with CAIS wish to be identified as Intersex. Our founder Dalea on occasion mentions this term during interviews, but solely as an additional descriptive to help provide a quick snapshot of her experience. Never as an identity. Other than that, Dalea does not describe herself with any label, in her own words, *she is simply a woman*.

### How frequently does a Variation Of Sex Development Occur?

Due to a great degree of secrecy, accurate count of DSD variations in populations accross the world do not really exist. However, various studies suggest that 1 in every 2000 babies is born with some type of VOSD. From that, an even smaller portion of VOSD babies seem to be born with CAIS.

### Remember

If you meet someone who shares their CAIS Status (or any VOSD status) please let them decide how much detail they want to share regarding anatomy, chromosomes, etc... The level of comfort with their experience is very personal and differs person to person. The best thing you can do, is show you care and support them; that is what all human beings really need.

If someone confides in you, please know how important you must be in their lives and how equally important it is that you do not share that information with others.

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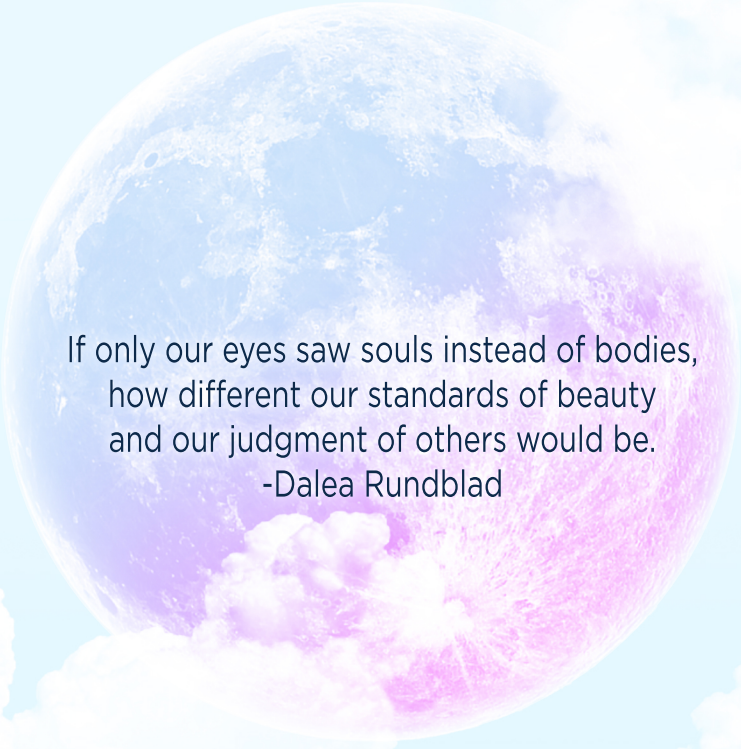
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If only our eyes saw souls instead of bodies,  
how different our standards of beauty  
and our judgment of others would be.  
-Dalea Rundblad

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