# Surgeons clarify stance on womb transplants for transgender patients



Surgeons involved in the UK's groundbreaking womb transplant have confirmed that they will not be undertaking similar procedures for transgender patients in the foreseeable future. The landmark operation brought joy to Grace Davidson, 36, and her husband Angus, 37, who welcomed their daughter Amy Isabel earlier this year. Mrs Davidson was born without a womb, a condition known as Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome. The transplant was made possible by the donation from her sister, Amy Purdie.

Professor Richard Smith, a gynaecological surgeon, and transplant surgeon Isabel Quiroga were instrumental in the successful operation. They articulated that their research is not advanced enough to consider womb transplants for trans women—individuals born male who identify as female. Professor Smith emphasised, “It's really important to be clear about what we're trying to do, which is relief of suffering for women who have got no womb, or they've got a womb which is incapable of reproduction.” He explained that the primary goal of the procedure is the creation of families, rather than fulfilling broader psychological desires.

Quiroga highlighted that the uterus serves a singular purpose: gestation. She stated, “The only function of a uterus is to gestate and the uterus doesn't make any hormones, it doesn't do anything – it only gives the capacity of a woman to carry her own child.” They remain cautious about the idea of womb transplants for trans patients, noting that the potential medical risks—including those associated with long-term immunosuppression—are considerable.

There has been considerable interest and hope within the trans community regarding womb transplants for those wishing to carry their own children. However, the experts expressed concerns based on current medical challenges. Professor Smith noted that anatomical considerations pose significant challenges, stating, “There are issues with respect to private anatomy… where are you going to hook a uterus when we stitch one in a male pelvis?” He projected that any meaningful progress in this area would take “ten to 20 years.”

The Womb Transplant UK charity, associated with Professor Smith, has received approval to carry out a total of 15 womb transplants—comprising five operations from living donors and ten from deceased donors. So far, they have conducted the successful transplant of Mrs Davidson and are permitted to perform four additional procedures using living donors and seven more using deceased donors. This development stands to benefit many women across the UK, particularly as around 15,000 women live with MRKH syndrome. Additionally, many women require hysterectomies due to complications arising from conditions such as endometriosis and cancer, rendering surrogacy or adoption their only viable options until now.

The historic success of the womb transplant adds a promising chapter to reproductive medicine, offering hope to women affected by various reproductive health issues.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://people.com/woman-gives-birth-to-miracle-baby-after-first-womb-transplant-in-uk-11711196> - This article supports the claim that Grace Davidson, born with Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome, underwent a womb transplant from her sister Amy and gave birth to her daughter Amy Isabel, making her the first woman in the UK to do so.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/womb-transplant-uk-baby-birth-b2728873.html> - This article corroborates the story of Grace Davidson's womb transplant and the birth of her daughter, highlighting it as a historic medical achievement in the UK.
* <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/263327/first-baby-born-through-donated-womb-in-the-uk-is-cause-for-ethical-concerns-expert-says> - This article discusses ethical concerns surrounding womb transplants and IVF, providing additional context on the global discussion about the procedure.
* <https://people.com/woman-gives-birth-to-miracle-baby-after-first-womb-transplant-in-uk-11711196> - Further details are provided about Grace Davidson's journey, including the involvement of surgeons like Isabel Quiroga in the successful operation.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/womb-transplant-uk-baby-birth-b2728873.html> - This article also mentions the role of Womb Transplant UK in facilitating the operations, highlighting their fundraising efforts for future procedures.