

## What Is Going On?

### Hymenoplasty (HP)

- Altering the shape of the hymen to mimic hymenal bleeding
- Immigrant women ask for HP to:**
  - Meet the cultural expectations for premarital virginity
  - Protect themselves from ramifications (stigma to honour killing)

### In western contexts:

- HP is medically unindicated, ethically wrong, and misogynistic
- Dilemma among healthcare providers
- Random and inadequate provision of healthcare

### In Canada:

- HP is on rise, but largely understudied and unregulated
- No information on how it is framed in Canadian healthcare system
- Need to understand/improve the policy and practice

## When Cultures Clash: Exploring Collective Subjectivities Entailed in Healthcare Providers' Experiences with Requests for Hymenoplasty

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## Where Are We?

### So Far:

- Interviewed four physicians

### Trends in Findings:

#### *Key concepts in participants narratives*

- The medical necessity
- Ethicality
- Practice in Gray Zone

#### *Systematic limitations*

- The absence of training, guideline, billing code
- Secret practice and poor accessibility

#### *Strategies*

- Distancing themselves from women's cultural world
- Adapting a cosmetic approach toward hymenoplasty
- Reliance on institutional ethics, the medical facts about hymen and virginity, and human rights principles

## How Do We Approach This Problem?

### Community-Based Research

- Community-researcher partnership; co-production of knowledge
- Collective subjectivity is key in the operation of the system
- System change requires changes in members' mindset

### Cultural psychology

- Collective subjectivities are socio-communally constructed
- Individuals embody the system in their daily lives

### Question

*What collective subjectivities are involved in healthcare provider's experiences with hymenoplasty?*

### Methodology

Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to explore:

- Participants' lived experiences
- The cultural principles they use to make sense of their experiences

## Where Are We Going?

### Looking for community partners for:

- Community Consultation
- Knowledge Mobilization

## Key References

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