BRINGING BACK VIRGINITY: *Is it taboo or passionate?*

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Virginity for women in some parts of the world remains a status symbol that must be maintained before they enter the marriage life. Culture and its binding with various social and mental threats demand women to do anything for the sake of virginity. While in other parts of the world, especially in modern countries, virginity is not a cult that must be maintained. For them virginity is just a sign that these women have not undergone sexual intercourse.

Indonesia and some neighboring countries are known for their traditional values where virginity is a valuable asset. Even applying for a marriage or knowing marriage to a virgin soldier is a major requirement without considering the reason behind virginity loss. Unfortunately, not every baby girl is born with hymen. Hymen shape varies greatly and hymen tear is not necessarily followed by bleeding.

The issue raises author's interest to perform hymen restoration surgery. Over the past decade, more than 200 women have come to restore their hymen for various reasons with hidden conceal because the action is considered taboo. There is a growing interest of many women to rejuvenatee or restore hymen just to presented to their partners on special occasions.

In Indonesia, hymenoplasty is ethically controversial. Its technique is anecdotal. This procedure should be scientifically studied before it is recommended for routine clinical use. Surgeons should have open mind while critically evaluating the usefulness of hymenoplasty. A task force involving surgeons, lawyers, social activists, champions of human-rights and religious leaders is essential to solve the problems surrounding this unusual procedure.

Keywords— hymenoplasty, restoration, virginity

Professional Biography (100-150 words)

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