TRANSADVOCATE

Pumping-Beauty Now, Pay Dearly For It Later

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Abstract

One of the issues I don't talk about enough is the prevalence of pumping amongst POC transwomen. It's a subject that is guaranteed to start a vigorous discussion amongst us because the trans women who have resorted to it get defensive about pumping when we talk about the people who weren't so lucky. Talking about the risks [...]

Article



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Talking about the risks of pumping is not by extension those of us broaching the subject engaging in making moral judgments about their choice to do whatever they wish with their bodies.

While its a major issue amongst POC transwomen, our cis sisters are also getting pumped too and paying the price.

In February 20 year old college student Claudia Aderotimi flew across the Pond from London along with two friends to Philadelphia to get butt enhancement via silicone injections. She and her friends had

done some treatments before with no complications but on this trip something went horribly wrong. Twelve hours after being injected on February 7 at a Philly hotel near the airport, Aderotimi was complaining of chest pains, struggling to breathe and died in a local hospital.

The case got even more ironic because transwoman Padge Victoria Windslowe, a music artist who goes by the name of Black Madam, is considered a person of interest in this case. She is accused of being the person who administered the fatal injections and is facing 10 years in prison if arrested, proven guilty, and sentenced for involuntary manslaughter..

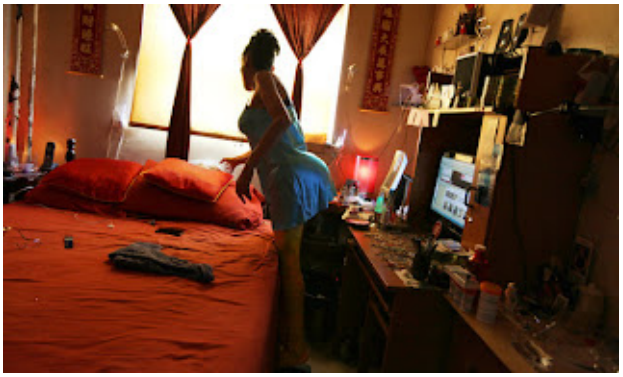
The Aderotimi case is similar to what happened in 2001 to Vera Lawrence in Miami, another ciswoman who died after a silicone pumping injection gone wrong.



What's making me ponder this subject again is a recent New York Times article that chronicled the story of transwoman Zaira Quispe who is now dealing with the medical consequences due to the pumping she did from 1989-2000 to make herself look femme and curvy.

It also interviewed 'S', a transwoman who is making a nice living as one of the people doing the pumping.

Whatever your opinions about pumping be they pro or con, pumping is basically the fast, low cost route to a feminine body that gives you the quick feminization results now. Some people who have pumped claimed they have done so with no ill effects, but I'd like to check back in with those same people when they reach AARP membership card age and see if they're saying the same thing they're espousing right now..



The one certainty about silicone pumping is that you will pay dearly for it either sooner or later. Some people have paid the ultimate price like Claudia by forfeiting their lives because a pumping procedure

went horribly wrong. Others find out later that the pumping shot they shared with one of their homegirls resulted in them contracting HIV.

Silicone also has a tendency to migrate from the place it was initially placed, and if the pumpers used the industrial type that's used for caulking your bathtub instead of the medical grade, the industrial type contains ammonia and other chemicals that wreak havoc on body tissue and will cause you medical issues as you age.



I understand why people do it. Trans women want to look as femme as possible, and in many cases they impatiently wanted it yesterday after being stuck in a body they didn't feel comfortable in.

I've felt their pain because I was just as impatient in the early stages as well. But my overriding concern was to do it safely, so I chilled out and let my hormone regimen work its magic.

Many transwomen of color don't have the finances to be able to afford plastic surgery work that can cost upwards of $70-100K. We transwomen also have it in the back of our minds that blending in as seamlessly as possible with the cis femme population equals less drama in our lives and ratchets down the level of violence we face for being who we are.

We have it in the back of our minds that it's either look femme or die None of us wants to be on that depressingly long list of names read at the next TDOR ceremony and will do whatever it takes to ensure that when it comes to looking the part, we are as close to indistinguishable from our cis sisters as possible..



But think for a moment about your mom, sisters, aunts, cis female friends, cis females you admire and other female relatives you are surrounded with in your life.

When they started morphing into their adult bodies it was approximately a decade long process. It wasn't akin to one morning they were in their prepubescent phase and the next day they had their adult feminine curves. It took time for them to get adjusted to their body and the changes and remember they had the encouragement of society and their families while doing so.

I have to agree with what Cydne Kimbrough said in a discussion we were having on my FB page concerning the New York Timesarticle:

> *"When will we learn that transitioning is a slow and beautiful process when you allow your body the chance to mature into it."*

Amen sis. Some of our sisters are aware of that, some aren't. We transwomen will have to learn and accept the fact that our transitions at the start are in a sense a second puberty that begins our slow and beautiful evolution into womanhood.

But the impatience of youth, desperation and other factors take them down the pumping road for the quick fix beauty now that they'll pay dearly for later..

cross-posted from Transgriot

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