Association Between Obesity and the Trends of Routes of Hysterectomy Performed for Benign Indications

Emad Mikhail, MD, Branko Miladinovic, PhD, Vic Velanovich, MD, Michael A. Finan, MD, Stuart Hart, MD, and Anthony N. Imudia, MD

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1. What is NSQIP (http://site.acsnsqip.org/)? Does your institution participate in NSQIP? Discuss the goals of NSQIP and its effect on patient care. What are the costs of implementing such a system?

2. List what types of benign hysterectomy are performed at your institution. For each, list criteria you use to determine whether a woman would be eligible for that route.

3. The authors list relative contraindications for vaginal hysterectomy in the discussion section of the paper. Which of these are applicable in your practice? Why or why not?

4. The authors make an argument for minimally invasive hysterectomy for women who are obese. List potential complications with laparoscopic or robotically assisted laparoscopic surgery in obese and morbidly obese patients. Are there differences between the two approaches in complications? How do you assess the suitability of laparoscopic surgery compared with robotic surgery for obese patients in your practice?

5. The study dates spanned from 2005 to 2011. How have practices changed in the interim? Do you think the findings regarding the route of hysterectomy in obese women remains unchanged?

6. Wound infections were found to be increased among obese women as compared to normal weight women only for those who were undergoing total abdominal hysterectomy (TAH). How common are postoperative wound infections following TAH at your institution? Discuss preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative steps to reduce wound infections in obese women with incisions.

7. The authors used Student t test for normally distributed data and the Wilcoxon rank-sum test for skewed data. Discuss the differences between normally distributed and skewed data, and why the Wilcoxon rank-sum test is more appropriate for skewed data.

8. Discuss whether or not the data presented by the authors will change your practice. How do the recent recommendations regarding prophylactic salpingectomy influence your choice of route of hysterectomy?