Outpatient Hysterectomy Volume in the United States

Sarah L. Cohen, MD, MPH, Mobolaji O. Ajao, MD, MPH, Nisse V. Clark, MD, Allison F. Vitonis, ScM, and Jon I. Einarsson, MD, PhD

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1. In your practice, do you perform hysterectomies in an ambulatory surgery center or an inpatient hospital? Who is a good candidate for an ambulatory surgery center compared with inpatient surgery?

2. Table 3 in the article presents a variety of indications for outpatient hysterectomy. Which indications were most common in this cohort for outpatient hysterectomy? Did the indications vary between laparoscopic compared with vaginal approaches? Are there any alternative methods to describe differences between groups such as contingency tables?

3. The authors discuss extrapolating their data to the rest of the United States and make estimates regarding the number of outpatient hysterectomies that are performed annually. List the assumptions that they made in their extrapolation. Discuss whether you agree with their conclusions about how many and the range of outpatient hysterectomies that are performed in the United States.

4. Table 2 in the article presents the data regarding length of stay in this cohort. Discuss how these lengths of stay compare to the lengths of stay at your institution for hysterectomy.

5. The approximate breakdown of vaginal to laparoscopic hysterectomy performed on an outpatient basis was 1:5 (vaginal to laparoscopic). Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a laparoscopic compared with a vaginal approach to hysterectomy in an outpatient setting.

6. The author wrote, “to prevent variables with missing values from being dropped from analyses, the missing indicator method was used, and these indicators included in the regression models.” Discuss what the missing indicator method means and how it affects regression models. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using this methodology?

7. How were robotic cases identified in this cohort? What are the cost implications of how the authors identified robotic compared with laparoscopic cases?

8. Read the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s brief on hospital-based ambulatory surgery (see https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb86.pdf). What is the difference in cost between surgery in an ambulatory compared with a hospital setting?