Comparison of Robotic and Laparoscopic Hysterectomy for Benign Gynecologic Disease

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(Obstet Gynecol 2013;122:778–86)

1. What type of study is this? Is it retrospective? Prospective? List the strengths and weaknesses of this type of study design.

2. For what purpose was the Nationwide Inpatient Sample created? Contrast this type of database with a research database such as the Women’s Health Initiative. What are the strengths, weaknesses and advantages of the two types of databases?

3. Do you perform either robotic or laparoscopic hysterectomy at your institution? Why is one approach chosen over the other?

4. The authors found that the cost of robotic hysterectomy was greater by $2,489.00, but not associated with improved outcomes. What is the reimbursement at your institution for robotic hysterectomy versus laparoscopic hysterectomy? Are they different? If not, discuss who absorbs the increased cost of the robotic procedure.

5. The authors stated that they were unable to factor capital costs, annual service contract charges, and depreciation of the robot or laparoscopic surgery into analyses. Hypothesize how the addition of these costs would influence the conclusions of this study.

6. Review the statement on robotic surgery from ACOG’s Past President, Dr. James T. Breeden. How is his statement on the use of robotics relevant to the current article?

7. Discuss drivers of adoption of new technology at your institution. Who initiates the introduction of new procedures? How is credentialing for new procedures reviewed at your institution?

8. Discuss how you would counsel a patient who presents requesting a robotically assisted hysterectomy who has seen the procedure advertised on a local billboard.