Prospective Implementation and Evaluation of a Decision-Tree Algorithm for Route of Hysterectomy

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1. Discuss the intervention in this quality improvement project. What were the three elements in the algorithm? How were these elements distributed to the surgeons and how was adherence determined?

2. Discuss the outcomes of the quality improvement project. What outcomes did they observe after implementation of the algorithm?

3. Fifteen percent of patients scheduled for hysterectomy underwent an examination under anesthesia at the time of surgery to determine route. Is this rate similar to the rates of route conversion at your institution after examination under anesthesia?

4. In this series, how many women were converted from vaginal to a more invasive route of hysterectomy after starting a vaginal hysterectomy? In your institution, how many hysterectomies are converted to another route? Discuss reasons for conversion for those that you have experienced and hypothetical cases.

5. Apply the algorithm to the past 20 hysterectomies performed at your institution. How do your results compare with those of the authors?

6. At your institution, what are the barriers or promotors for performance of vaginal, laparoscopic, open, or robotic hysterectomy? Discuss possible solutions for each barrier.

7. Review ACOG Committee Opinion No. 701 (see Obstet Gynecol 2017;129:e155–e159). Compare the guidelines to how hysterectomies are performed at your institution. What differences and similarities exist?

8. The authors state that there would be considerable savings if robotic or laparoscopic hysterectomies were converted to vaginal hysterectomies. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?