“Reliability of Laparoscopic Compared With Hysteroscopic Sterilization at 1 Year: A Decision Analysis”
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1. Review the source of funding for this study. Under what circumstances should the reader be informed of the identity of the funding source? Discuss reasons why the foundation may prefer to remain anonymous. Suggest criteria Obstetrics & Gynecology should use to establish whether there are competing interests while still preserving anonymity for the foundation.

2. Review the objective of the study. Define “successful sterilization” using measurable outcomes. What would be your patients’ definition of “successful sterilization”? What is the authors’ definition of “successful sterilization” for hysteroscopic procedures? For laparoscopic procedures? Discuss any differences among those definitions.

3. Review the 3-month post-procedure hysterosalpingogram and ultrasonogram images shown below. Using the authors’ definition, would this be considered a successful sterilization? Why or why not? According to the manufacturer’s specifications, should this woman rely on this device for prevention of pregnancy? Why or why not?
4. The authors did not account for costs in their decision analysis. Discuss which outcome(s) should be used as the denominator in a cost-effectiveness analysis comparing hysteroscopic sterilization with laparoscopic sterilization.

5. Define Markov decision modeling. What is a “health state”? How are “transition probabilities” estimated? How did the authors account for inaccuracy of some of the transition probabilities in their model? In your opinion, are any of the baseline values in Table 1 inaccurate? Does it make a difference whether efficacy studies or effectiveness studies are used to develop baseline values?

6. Review the long-term follow-up for tubal sterilization (reference 28) and hysteroscopic sterilization. Discuss whether the 1-year modeling in this study is clinically relevant. Discuss whether the 1-year modeling in this study is consistent with the study objective.

7. Review Figure 2. What conclusions do you draw from the figure? What is the probability of unsuccessful laparoscopic sterilization procedure in your patients?

8. Discuss the following questions. Considering the failure rate for hysteroscopic sterilization, should these procedures be done in the operating room, thereby allowing for immediate tubal sterilization? Should all patients undergoing surgical sterilization be scheduled for and consented for possible alternatives for surgical sterilization in case of failure? What quality indicators should be used by your institution for surgical sterilization? ACOG Committee Opinion #458 (Obstet Gynecol 2010;115:1343–5) and Practice Bulletin #46 (Obstet Gynecol 2003;102:647–58) are useful resources for answering these questions.