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## Decreasing utilization of hysterectomy:

a population-based study in Olmsted county, Minnesota, 1965-2002

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### Abstract

**OBJECTIVE**—The purpose of this study was to assess temporal trends for hysterectomy among Olmsted County, Minnesota women.

**STUDY DESIGN**—Using the Rochester Epidemiology Project database, we identified all county residents undergoing a hysterectomy in 1965-2002. Temporal changes in the utilization (incidence) rate, type, diagnostic indications, and age at surgery were assessed.

**RESULTS**—Between 1965 and 2002, 6152 women had a hysterectomy alone, whereas 3126 women had, in addition, a pelvic floor repair; the age-adjusted utilization rate for hysterectomy alone and for combined procedures declined (P < .0001) by 13% and 63%, respectively. Except for subjects aged 75-85 years, this decline affected every age group. The distribution of vaginal (56%) and abdominal (44%) procedures differed across indications. Uterine leiomyomata, precancerous conditions, and genital prolapse accounted for 28%, 23%, and 12% of all procedures, respectively.

**CONCLUSION**—Among community women, the utilization rate, age distribution, and indications for a hysterectomy changed substantially between 1965 and 2002.

#### Keywords

Epidemiology; hysterectomy; indications; population utilization rate

Hysterectomy ranks second only to cesarean section as the most common surgical procedure performed in reproductive age women in the US. In 2000, 633,000 hysterectomies were performed in this country.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, by age of 60 years, approximately one third of women in the US have had a hysterectomy.<sup>2,3</sup> The National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS)<sup>4</sup> and the Nationwide Inpatient Sample of the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project<sup>5,6</sup> have tracked nationwide trends in the utilization of hysterectomy for many years. The former (ie, NHDS) is conducted in a sample of nonfederal short stay hospitals, most recently updated for 2001, while the latter is conducted in a 20% stratified sample of community hospitals. These surveys suggest that the overall rate of hysterectomy in this country declined slightly from 7.1 hysterectomies per 1000 women in 1980 to 6.6 per 1000 in 1987. Between 1988 and 1993, this rate decreased further to 5.5 per 1000 women annually<sup>2</sup> and plateaued thereafter (ie, between 1994 and 1998).<sup>4</sup>

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While useful, these figures have incompletely characterized temporal trends in the utilization, types, and indications for hysterectomy. An accurate appraisal of the current incidence of hysterectomy is important to plan future healthcare needs, particularly since several factors might be anticipated to reduce the utilization of hysterectomy. These factors include an increasing adoption of medical treatments (eg, hormonal therapy for endometriosis and other menstrual disorders) and minimally invasive procedures (eg, endoscopic and laser therapy) for management of gynecologic disorders that previously were treated with surgical intervention, <sup>7-9</sup> the need for previous authorization for surgical procedures, peer review, and quality assurance, <sup>10-13</sup> and a trend among women in the US to childbearing, <sup>14</sup> with a resultant desire preserve fertility. An understanding of the temporal trends in hysterectomy is also necessary to understand temporal trends in the incidence of surgery for pelvic organ prolapse.

To explore these issues, we examined secular trends in the utilization rates, types, and indications for hysterectomy as a single procedure as well as hysterectomy combined with pelvic floor repair among Olmsted County, Minnesota, women from Jan 1, 1965 to Dec 31, 2002, taking advantage of the population-based data resources of the Rochester Epidemiology Project.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Medical care in Olmsted County, located in the southeastern part of Minnesota, is virtually self-contained within the community, thus allowing population-based epidemiologic research into the incidence and determinants of diverse diseases and therapeutic interventions. Women's medical care is provided mainly by Mayo Clinic and the Olmsted Medical Group. Mayo Clinic has maintained a common medical record with its 2 large affiliated hospitals (Rochester Methodist and St Marys) for 100 years. This dossier-type record thus contains both inpatient and outpatient data, and specific records are easily retrieved for review since diagnoses and surgical procedures are indexed.<sup>15</sup> The medical Center (Olmsted Medical Group and its affiliated Olmsted Community Hospital), are similarly indexed by the Rochester Epidemiology Project.<sup>16</sup> Thus, the details of almost all of the medical care provided to Olmsted County residents are available for study through this medical record linkage system. This population has been extensively studied for the purpose of reporting the epidemiology of surgical procedures.<sup>17-19</sup>

#### **Case identification**

Following approval by the Institutional Review Boards of both Mayo Clinic and Olmsted Medical Center, the Rochester Epidemiology Project database was used to identify all women who underwent hysterectomy either as a single procedure or along with pelvic floor repair procedures between Jan 1, 1965 and Dec 31, 2002, and were Olmsted County residents. A total of 615 patients from the hysterectomy file (6%) who refused to authorize use of their medical records for research were excluded from the study.<sup>20</sup> The procedure type and indications were identified electronically using the Berkson coding system from Jan 1, 1965 to Dec 31, 1987 and the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) procedural codes from Jan 1, 1988 to Dec 31, 2002, as delineated in Table 1. Since there was no ICD-9-CM code for laparoscopic hysterectomy before Oct 1996, we used the laparoscopic code 54.21 to idenalltifyofany procedure performed in conjunction with vaginal hysterectomy, subtotal, or other hysterectomy before 1996. This methodology for identifying laparoscopic hysterectomy has been used previously.<sup>21</sup> For the purpose of study, hysterectomies were broadly categorized as abdominal or vaginal. In 100 randomly selected women, the procedure type in the electronic record system was manually compared to the procedure type listed in the surgical note; these 2 sources agreed in 99% of cases. The

procedures were then matched with their corresponding indication codes as contained in the electronic medical records of the operation, and the pathologic diagnosis. Where there were multiple diagnoses, the principal indication was assigned using the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established hierarchic system of diagnosis.<sup>2</sup> First, if cancer of the reproductive tract was listed as 1 of the diagnoses, it was assigned as the primary indication for hysterectomy. Second, if both hysterectomy and the debulking of cancer of the urinary or intestinal tract were listed, the debulking procedure was assigned as the primary indication. Third, if a precancerous condition (eg, endometrial hyperplasia or carcinoma in situ of the cervix) was listed in the absence of a diagnosis of cancer, then the precancerous condition was assigned as the primary diagnosis. Fourth, if cancer or a precancerous condition was not listed, the diagnoses were scanned for 1 of the 3 most common indications for hysterectomy (ie, uterine leiomyoma, endometriosis, or uterine prolapse),<sup>22</sup> and the first of these diagnoses listed was assigned as the primary diagnosis. Fifth, the remaining records were placed in the "other" diagnostic category.

#### Statistical analysis

To be considered an incident case, the patient must have been residing in Olmsted County at the time of the surgical procedure. For estimating hysterectomy utilization rates (incidence density) the entire population of Olmsted County women was considered to be at risk for the procedure; the denominator and age-specific person-years were derived from decennial census data with linear interpolation between census years.<sup>23</sup> The hysterectomy utilization rates were directly age-adjusted to the population structure of US white females in 2000 as the standard population since this is the population that most resembles Olmsted County (99% white in 1970, 98% in 1980, 96% in 1990, and 90% in 2000). Standard errors and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) for the rates were estimated, assuming that the incidence cases followed a Poisson distribution.<sup>23,24</sup> Temporal trends in the procedure type, indications, and patient's age were analyzed using separate Poisson regression models for any hysterectomy, abdominal hysterectomy, and vaginal hysterectomy. A multiple logistic regression model evaluated whether the choice between abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy was influenced by age, the indication for the hysterectomy, or calendar period. For each indication, the odds ratios (and 95% CIs) for abdominal versus vaginal hysterectomy were estimated relative to the reference group (ie, the odds of having an abdominal [versus vaginal] hysterectomy for uterine leiomyomata between 1965 and 1974 in women  $\leq$  50 years of age).

#### RESULTS

During the 38-year study period 9893 hysterectomies (with or without pelvic floor repair procedures) were performed in this population, but 615 patients (6%) did not authorize use of their medical records for research purposes. Thus, 9278 hysterectomies were included in this analysis. Of these, 6152 (66%) hysterectomies were performed as a single procedure, while 3126 (34%) hysterectomies were combined with a pelvic floor repair procedure (PFR).

#### Temporal trends for hysterectomy alone versus hysterectomy combined with pelvic floor repair

The age-adjusted utilization rate for any hysterectomy (alone or with PFR) declined (P < .0001) by 37%, from 745 per 100,000 person years in 1965-1974 to 472 per 100,000 in 1995-2002 (Table 2). The age-adjusted annual utilization rate of hysterectomy alone declined steadily over time by 13%, from 395 per 100,000 women in 1965-1974 to 342 per 100,000 in 1995-2002. By contrast, the age-adjusted utilization of combined hysterectomy and PFR procedures declined by 63%, from 349 per 100,000 in 1965-1974 to 130 per 100,000 in 1995-2002. With the exception of women aged 75-85 years, the incidence of any hysterectomy (ie, with or without a PFR) declined in every age group. However, a significant interaction (P < .001)

between age and calendar period was detected, signifying that the actual magnitude of temporal changes varied among age groups. Indeed, Table 2 suggests that the utilization of any hysterectomy was most pronounced (ie, by 66%) among women aged 25-34 years. In contrast, smaller reductions were observed among most older women (eg, 9% among women aged 55-64 years). However, among women aged 75-84 years, the annual incidence of any hysterectomy actually increased by 45%, from 308 per 100,000 in 1965-1974 to 446 per 100,000 in 1995-2002.

#### Temporal trends for abdominal versus vaginal hysterectomy

Of the 9278 hysterectomies performed during the study period, 5151 (56%) were performed vaginally, while 4127 (44%) were abdominal procedures. Subtotal (ie, supracervical, n = 58) and radical hysterectomies (n = 79) comprised a negligible proportion of abdominal hysterectomies. Fifty women had a laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy. Between the initial and final epochs, the age-adjusted utilization rate declined (P < .0001) by 40% for abdominal hysterectomy, from 323.1 per 100,000 annually in 1965-1974 to 194.2 per 100,000 in 1995-2002 (Table 3), while the annual utilization of vaginal hysterectomy declined (P < .0001) by 34%, from 421.7 per 100,000 in 1965-1974 to 278 per 100,000 in 1995-2002 (Table 4).

Similar to the results for any hysterectomy, the separate models for vaginal and abdominal hysterectomy both revealed a significant interaction (P < .001) between age and calendar period, signifying that the actual magnitude of temporal changes varied among age groups. Moreover, in contrast to the overall trends, the utilization rate for abdominal hysterectomy did not change over time in women aged 55-64 years but increased by approximately 33% in women aged 65-74 years and also among women aged 75-84 years. With the exception of women aged  $\geq$  75 years, the incidence of vaginal hysterectomy decreased (P < .001) over time in all groups.

#### Temporal trends in indications for hysterectomy

All calendar periods except for the latest were 10 years in duration. Allowing for differences in duration across epochs, the total number of abdominal or vaginal procedures during a calendar period was relatively stable between 1965 and 2002 (Table 5). Uterine leiomyomata and precancerous conditions were the 2 leading indications for both abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy. Malignant diseases and uterine prolapse comprised the third leading indication for abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy, respectively. The distribution of indications for hysterectomy also changed across time (Table 5). Between 1965-1974 and 1994, an increasing proportion of vaginal and abdominal procedures were conducted for precancerous conditions. However, this trend was reversed between 1995-2002.

The odds for having an abdominal versus vaginal hysterectomy also changed over time. Figure 1A and B depicts the odds ratios for having an abdominal versus vaginal hysterectomy for specific indications among women aged  $\leq 50$  years (Figure 1A) and > 50 years (Figure 1B). In these figures, the ence group is women  $\leq 50$  years who had a hysterectomy for uterine leiomyomata between 1965-1974. In women aged  $\leq 50$  years (Figure 1A), endometriosis and inflammatory conditions were generally associated with an increased odds for abdominal hysterectomy, while uterine prolapse, menstrual, or menopausal disorders were generally associated with a lower odds for abdominal (ie, an increased odds for vaginal hysterectomy) relative to the reference group. The most striking difference between women  $\leq 50$  and > 50 years of age is that older women undergoing a hysterectomy for cancer or for debulking were more likely than younger women to have an abdominal hysterectomy (Figure 1B).

#### COMMENT

Though the NHDS survey data have suggested a downward trend in hysterectomy utilization rates since the mid-1980s,<sup>2</sup> it is unclear if those trends affected by differences in survey technique, including sampling methods, over time. Systematic searches of Medline (1996-2006) and PubMed databases using the keywords "hysterectomy" AND "population" and "hysterectomy" AND "United States" suggest that this is the first strictly population-based study in the US where detailed data on hysterectomy patterns were available over a were long period of time. Our findings reveal that the utilization rate, age distribution, and indications for hysterectomy, either alone or combined with pelvic floor repair procedures, changed between 1965 and 2002. The overall hysterectomy rate declined significantly (ie, by 36%), but this temporal trend was not uniform across age groups, being most pronounced among women aged 25-34 years. In contrast, among women aged 75-84 years, the utilization rate increased by 45% between the initial (ie, 1965-1974) and final (ie, 1995-2002) epochs. Consequently, the age distribution of women undergoing hysterectomy gradually shifted to the right over time.

Approximately 60% of the hysterectomies in Olmsted County were performed by the vaginal route, which is similar to the reported rate of 40-50% in France and Australia, <sup>25, 26</sup> but higher than 25% rate reported elsewhere in this country.<sup>2</sup> The 3 leading indications abdominal hysterectomy (ie, leiomyomata, precancerous conditions, and cancer of the reproductive tract) and for vaginal hysterectomy (ie, leiomyomata, precancerous conditions, and prolapse) were similar to previous national surveys.<sup>2,4,5</sup> Our data (Figure 1A) confirm that a vaginal approach was preferred not only in younger women who had uterine or vaginal prolapse but also in women with endometriosis. Moreover, surgeons were equally likely to do a vaginal or an abdominal procedure even among younger women with leiomyomata or menstrual disorders. We suspect that physician preferences, partly attributable to a long tradition of expertise in vaginal surgery, may explain why a greater proportion of procedures in Olmsted County were performed via the vaginal route. Similarly, we suspect that the proportion of laparoscopic hysterectomies (ie, < 1% of all hysterectomies) is lower than the nationwide estimate (ie, 10%) because surgeons were able to remove the uterus vaginally without laparoscopic assistance. It is unlikely that differences in the proportion of LAVH between Olmsted County and the nationwide estimate vitiate the findings of our study.<sup>5</sup> Indeed, there is no advantage to doing a laparoscopic-assisted hysterectomy, <sup>27,28</sup> particularly in centers with expertise in vaginal surgery (eg, in Olmsted County).

The most striking trend in the distribution of indications for hysterectomy between 1995 and 2002 was the substantial decline in the number of procedures for precancerous conditions. This decline may be explained by the efficacy of screening programs for identifying pre-cancerous lesions at an earlier stage when they are more amenable to newer therapeutic approaches. Though less invasive therapeutic options for uterine leiomyomata are now available,<sup>25,29</sup> the number of hysterectomies for this indication increased in the most recent epoch (ie, 1995-2002). Though we did not specifically assess for a temporal trend among women undergoing a vaginal hysterectomy for leiomyomata, the magnitude of these changes is small.

For 1995-2002, the age-adjusted annual utilization rate for hysterectomy in Olmsted County (ie, 4.7 per 1000) was lower than the corresponding national figure of 5.6 per 1000 in 1997.<sup>5</sup> The loss of potential study subjects due to restricted access to their medical record data<sup>20</sup> did not appear to substantially affect the observed temporal decline in utilization of hysterectomy. Thus, within the age-grouped (but deidentified) list of all hysterectomy cases, the overall age-adjusted rate in 1988-2002 was 5.11 per 1000, which is approximately 22% less than the rate (ie, 6.52 per 1000) for the previous time period (ie, 1965-1987). Moreover, the estimated utilization rate for 1998-2002 in Olmsted County, including the deidentified cases, was also

comparable (ie, only 9% lower) to the national figure of 5.6 per 1000 in 1997. In contrast to these findings from the predominantly white population in Olmsted County, the NHDS data showed that hysterectomy rates between 1994-1999 were highest for black women (6.2 per 1000 women), intermediate for other races (5.9 per 1000), and lowest for white women (5.3 per 1000).<sup>4</sup> In contrast, National Health Interview Survey suggested that Hispanic women undergo fewer hysterectomies than non-Hispanic women.<sup>30</sup>

The trends reported here have several implications from a public health perspective. Though overall hysterectomy rates have declined, the increasing utilization among older women deserves further scrutiny, particularly as the baby boomers age. It is conceivable that hysterectomy utilization rates will continue to decline as screening programs for cervical cancer are optimized and as less-invasive therapeutic options (eg, endometrial ablation, uterine artery embolization) are compared to hysterectomy in rigorous trials, and are adopted more widely in medical practice. Our data also demonstrate that there is considerable scope for increasing the proportion of procedures done by the vaginal route, with its advantages, nationwide.

#### Acknowledgements

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# FIGURE. Odds ratio (95% CIs) for abdominal versus vaginal hysterectomy among Olmsted County, MN

Women **A**, aged  $\leq$  50 years **B**, and > 50 years. The reference group is women  $\leq$  50 years who had a hysterectomy for uterine leiomyoma between 1965-1974. In women aged  $\leq$  50 years, endometriosis and inflammatory conditions were associated with increased odds, while uterine prolapse or menstrual or menopausal disorders were associated with lower odds for abdominal hysterectomy relative to the reference group. The most striking age-related difference was that older women undergoing a hysterectomy for cancer or for debulking were more likely than younger women to have an abdominal hysterectomy. Between 1965-2002, the utilization rate for hysterectomy in the population declined by 37%; the age distribution and indications for this procedure also changed over time.

#### TABLE 1

#### Diagnostic codes of indications for hysterectomy Berkson procedure codes

4694; 4695
4680; 4690 <sup>*</sup>
4720
4700 & 4710
l Modification (ICD-9-CM) codes
68.3
68.4
68.5, 68.59; 69.51
68.51
68.6; 68.7
68.9
1

\*4695: with salpingo-oophorectomy (unilateral or bilateral); 4690: with salpingo-oophorectomy (unilateral or bilateral).

TABLE 2	ay among Olmsted County, Minnesota women by age group, 1965-2002
TABLE	Annual age-adjusted utilization of any hysterectomy among C

roup (y)	1965-1974 rate <sup>*</sup>	1975-1984 rate <sup>*</sup>	1985-1994 rate	1995-2002 rate	All years rate	
<25	18.9	7.2	8.5	10.5	11.3	
25-34	690.7	478.3	362.8	236.0	429.1	
35-44	1952.5	1423.0	1149.6	1017.7	1301.4	
45-54	1526.6	1393.0	1129.6	1103.6	1252.5	
55-64	585.0	515.7	503.6	527.2	530.9	
65-74	563.2	543.7	532.4	494.7	532.4	
75-84	307.7	355.9	342.4	446.1	368.2	
285	177.8	106.2	205.9	164.3	166.8	
Total	744.8	603.6	508.1	472.2	562.2	
% CI) <sup>↑</sup>	(713.9, 775.7)	(578.1, 629.1)	(487.5, 528.6)	(452.4, 492.0)	(550.6, 573.8)	

The decline in utilization rates was more pronounced in younger than in older women. Among women aged 75-84 years, the utilization rate increased by 45% between 1965-1974 and 1995-2002.

\* Annual incidence of the procedure per 100,000 Olmsted County women.

 $m ^{+}$  Age-adjusted incidence per 100,000 women directly adjusted to US white women in 2000 (and 95% CI for the age-adjusted rate).

# Utilization of abdominal hysterectomy among Olmsted County, Minnesota women by age group, 1965-2002 8.0 8.0 189.7 539.0 601.1 216.4 1634.4 1634.4 1634.4 1634.4 1634.4 1634.4 1634.4 1634.4 1634.4 1632.4 250.6 (242.9, 258.4) All years rate 5.3 102.1 365.9 498.2 498.2 498.2 230.2 182.1 182.1 194.2 (181.4, 206.9) 1995-2002 rate TABLE 3 154.4 545.4 242.9 237.3 134.3 234.3 5.5 (220.3, 248.4) 1985-1994 rate 6.3 220.9 649.1 675.3 284.9 262.8 148.7 93.0 93.0 288.4 (270.8, 306.1) 1975-1984 rate 14.5 305.1 772.2 772.5 152.1 152.1 152.1 136.8 8.36 8.38.9 (302.7, 343.4) 1965-1974 rate -<25 25-34 35-44 35-44 45-54 55-64 55-64 55-74 75-88 285 ≥85 285 (95% CI)<sup>↑</sup> Age group (y)

Annual incidence of the procedure per 100,000 Olmsted County women.

 $\star^4$  Age-adjusted incidence per 100,000 women directly adjusted to US white women in 2000 (and 95% CI for the age-adjusted rate).

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Utilization of vaginal h	
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Age group (y)	1965-1974 rate <sup>*</sup>	1975-1984 rate <sup>*</sup>	1985-1994 rate <sup>*</sup>	1995-2002 rate <sup>*</sup>	All years rate
<25	4.4	1.0	3.0	5.3	3.3
25-34	385.6	257.3	208.4	133.9	239.4
35-44	1161.3	773.8	649.6	651.8	762.4
45-54	754.1	717.7	585.9	605.4	651.9
55-64	357.2	230.8	260.8	297.0	284.8
65-74	411.1	280.8	295.1	291.6	316.0
75-84	170.9	207.2	164.7	264.0	203.9
>85	88.9	13.3	71.6	95.1	0.69
Age-adjusted (95% CI) $^{\dagger}$	421.7(398.4,444.9)	315.1 (296.7, 333.5)	274.0 (258.9, 289.0)	278.0 (262.8, 293.2)	311.6 (303.0, 320.3)
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Annual incidence of the procedure per 100,000 Olmsted County women.

 $m ^{+}$  Age-adjusted incidence per 100,000 women directly adjusted to US white women in 2000 (and 95% CI for the age-adjusted rate).

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	Indications for abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy among Olmsted County, Minnesota women, 1965-2002	Indications for abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy among Olmsted County, Minnesota women, 1965-2002 Abdominal (n)*(%)? Vaginal(n)*(%)?

	Abdominal (n	(1) (1)				Vaginal(n)	1601			
Indication	1965-1974	1975-1984	1985-1994	1995-2002	All years	1965-1974	1975-1984	1985-1994	1995-2002	All years
Cancer of the reproductive tract	154 (15)	181 (17)	181 (16)	122 (13)	638 (15)	144 (11)	61 (5)	41 (3)	65 (5)	311 (6)
Debulking of urinary or GI cancer	27 (3)	12 (1)	32 (3)	33 (4)	104 (2)	8 (0.6)	2 (0.2)	4 (0.3)	8 (0.6)	22 (0.4)
Precancerous conditions	201 (20)	249 (23)	355 (32)	167 (18)	972 (24)	207 (16)	297 (25)	421 (32)	279 (21)	1204 (23)
Uterine leiomyomata	313 (31)	321 (30)	295 (26)	338 (37)	1267 (31)	315 (24)	317 (27)	327 (25)	389 (29.5)	1348 (26)
Endometriosis	117 (11)	124 (11)	<b>66 (9)</b>	100(11)	437 (11)	54 (4)	51 (4)	58 (4)	105 (8)	268 (5)
Uterine/vaginal prolapse	10(1)	5 (0.5)	18 (2)	12 (1)	45 (1)	439 (33)	243 (20.5)	208 (16)	207 (16)	1097 (21)
Menstrual disorders	100(10)	81 (7)	(L) LL	91 (10)	349 (8)	107 (8)	187 (16)	246 (18.5)	233 (18)	773 (15)
Menopausal disorders	9 (1)	11 (1)	4(0.4)	18 (2)	42 (1)	1(0.8)	7 (0.6)	10(0.8)	19(1)	37 (1)
Inflammatory diseases of pelvic organs	60 (6)	81 (7)	46 (4)	15 (2)	202 (5)	41 (13)	14 (10)	8 (0.6)	5 (0.4)	68 (1)
Others	27(3)	16(1.5)	13 (1)	15 (2)	71 (2)	4 (0.3)	5 (0.4)	5(0.4)	9 (0.7)	23 (0.4)
Total	1018 (100)	1081 (100)	1117 (100)	911 (100)	4127 (100)	1320 (100)	1184(100)	1328 (100)	1319 (100)	5151 (100)
* n = nimber of procedures										
a managed to require - u	_									

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 $f_{\%}^{*}$  = percentage of the procedure per column.