



Effective Health Care

Treatment of Uterine Fibroids Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Treatment of uterine fibroids was found to be addressed by an ongoing research project within the Effective Health Care Program.

Topic Description

Nominator: Organization

Nomination Summary: The nominator questions the comparative effectiveness of treatments for uterine fibroids. He questions what the harms and benefits of these treatments are and what research gaps exist in this area.

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. What are the comparative treatments including pharmacology, minimally invasive procedures, and surgical treatments for women with uterine fibroids?
2. What are the comparative benefits and harms for the various possible treatments?
3. What evidence exists to support the various options for women with fibroids and where are the evidence gaps?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Uterine fibroids is a costly condition that is often underdiagnosed and is being increasingly recognized as an important cause of morbidity. This topic may represent important variation in clinical care in what constitutes appropriate first-line and second-line therapies in patients with different types of uterine fibroids across variations in patient populations and subgroups. The current evidence base is insufficient to ascertain differences in treatment outcomes with existing and newer technologies and in the effective measurement of select clinical outcomes.
- This topic has significant overlap with a previous nomination on the treatment of uterine fibroids that moved forward for potential new research. Potential new research on this topic could help address the gaps in evidence for patients who are candidates for these procedures; the short- and long-term clinical outcomes; harms and benefits of these procedures, including the impact on quality of life; and future childbearing and control of gynecologic symptoms and recurrence.