



Effective Health Care Nonsurgical and Surgical Treatment of Chronic Pelvic Pain Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Nonsurgical and surgical treatment of chronic pelvic pain will go forward for refinement as a systematic review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in the comparative effectiveness of nonsurgical (including pharmacologic and behavioral treatments) versus surgical (mainly hysterectomy with or without oophorectomy) for the treatment of chronic pelvic pain in adult female patients. The nominator suggests there is very little evidence-based guidance from sources such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) on this topic. An evidence review may help facilitate the understanding of what is appropriate clinical care and provide guidance to clinicians, patients, and policy makers.

Population: Adult females aged 25-65 years with chronic pelvic pain due to adenomyosis, endometriosis, or unspecified etiology

Intervention: Surgical treatment including hysterectomy with or without oophorectomy

Comparator: Nonsurgical treatments including pharmacologic and behavioral

Outcomes: Improvement in patient symptoms, function (including sexual function), and patient satisfaction; for surgical procedures, risk of complication and death; for pharmacologic treatment, risk of side effects

Key Questions from Nominator: 1. For female adult patients, what is the comparative effectiveness of nonsurgical and surgical treatment of chronic pelvic pain?

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Chronic pelvic pain has a major impact on physical and mental health-related quality of life, work productivity, and health care utilization. It can be caused by several underlying conditions including both gynecologic and nongynecologic. It has been suggested that it is the most common indication for referral to women's health services. There are a number of surgical and nonsurgical treatments available for the treatment of chronic pelvic pain. Many interventions have not been studied in randomized controlled trials. Therefore an emphasis will be placed on highlighting the comparative effectiveness research gaps that remain with this topic.