

**Didactic lectures in Uterine Artery
Embolization and Uterine Vein
Embolization can help OBGYN physicians
provide better care for patients**

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Purpose

The purpose of this exhibit is to demonstrate the utility of didactic lectures in interventional radiology (IR) procedures in creating awareness and educating referring physicians.

Materials & Methods

A recent survey conducted by the Society of Interventional Radiology showed alarming misconceptions regarding uterine fibroids among women and underutilization of uterine artery embolization as a treatment option.

We realized the importance of providing didactic lectures in Interventional Radiology (IR) procedures to referring physicians. We recognized uterine fibroids and pelvic congestion syndrome as two disease processes that we could educate the OBGYN residents and attendings.

Materials & Methods

With permission from the OBGYN and Radiology program directors, a didactic lecture was prepared and was presented to the OBGYN residents and attendings. The lecture covered major aspects of uterine artery embolization (UAE) and its various applications.

A focused discussion was centered on fibroid treatment. A comprehensive discussion on pelvic congestion syndrome (PCS) followed, with procedural details on ovarian vein embolization.

A survey was conducted prior to and immediately following the lecture.

Findings

100% of the OBGYNs surveyed said they strive to discuss alternate treatments as part of the informed consent process. 63% responded that they have enough knowledge about UAE to feel comfortable discussing it. However, only 25% routinely offer UAE as an alternative.

Findings

100% responded that they have heard of pelvic congestion syndrome, and all have come across patients with chronic pelvic pain and lacking a formal diagnosis. Only 13% admitted to knowing the definition, diagnosis and treatment options for PCS. None have offered embolization as a treatment option.

Findings

After the lecture, 100% responded that they feel educated about both procedures and disease processes. 100% vs 88% felt comfortable discussing embolization procedures for fibroids and PCS respectively. 100% felt confident consulting IR for these indications.

Conclusion

Focused educational lectures for referring physicians can result in better awareness and confidence in Interventional Radiology procedures, and can possibly increase referrals.

References

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