



Effective Health Care

Intractable Chronic Pelvic Pain

Next Steps

The nominator, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), is interested in a new evidence review on the management of intractable chronic pelvic pain. ACOG plans to use an AHRQ evidence review to inform the development of a practice parameter on the topic.

After additional discussion with nominator, ACOG decided to withdraw the nomination. No further activity will be undertaken by the EHC Program at this time.

Topic Summary and Considerations

Topic Name and Number: 0775 Intractable Chronic Pelvic Pain

Topic Summary Date: 05/2018

Population, Interventions, Comparator, and Outcomes from Nomination

Population: Women experiencing symptoms of chronic pelvic pain

Interventions: Pelvic physical therapy, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS), Botox, behavioral therapy, neuropathic medications, antidepressant medications, counseling, opioid and non-opioid analgesics, procedural therapies [nerve blocks, trigger point blocks, epidural injections, complementary or alternative medicine therapies (herbal and nutritional therapies, magnetic field therapy, acupuncture, other)]

Comparator: No treatment

Outcomes: Reduction of chronic pelvic pain, improvement in quality of life

Chronic pelvic pain (CPP) represents a very common condition, which is quite costly. One definition is “persistent, noncyclic pain perceived to be in the structures related to the pelvis and lasting more than six months.”¹ Other definitions for CPP are broader which affect prevalence rates. Using the stricter definition of noncyclic pain lasting for more than six months, prevalence rates ranged between 5.7% and 26.6%.² CPP has a myriad of etiologies and requires numerous types of treatments, many of which provide only relief of symptoms and are not curative.¹

The nomination was submitted on March 1, 2018. After discussions with the nominator about the scope and timing of a potential AHRQ systematic review, ACOG decided to withdraw their nomination at this time with plans to revisit this or a similar topic in the future.

References

1. Speer LM, Mushkbar S, Erbele T. Chronic Pelvic Pain in Women. *Am Fam Physician*. 2016 Mar 1;93(5):380-7. PMID: 26926975.
2. Ahangari A. Prevalence of chronic pelvic pain among women: an updated review. *Pain Physician*. 2014 Mar-Apr;17(2):E141-7. PMID: 24658485.