Impact of previous gynecologic care and gynecology service consults on abnormal uterine bleeding follow-up

Khloe C. Pastore, BA\textsuperscript{1}, Caley Polkinghorn, BS\textsuperscript{1}, Nicolette Codispoti, MS, MPH\textsuperscript{1}, Anne Tjaden, MD\textsuperscript{2}, Linda C. Yang, MD, MS\textsuperscript{3}

\textsuperscript{1}\textit{Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, IL, USA}
\textsuperscript{2}\textit{Loyola University Medical Center, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Maywood, IL, USA}
\textsuperscript{3}\textit{Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chicago, IL, USA}

Abstract

\textbf{PURPOSE:} This study aims to investigate whether patients who previously established gynecologic care at Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC) or who had a Gynecology Service consult in the ED were more likely to follow-up once discharged.

\textbf{METHODS:} A retrospective chart review was conducted examining patients presenting to LUMC ED with abnormal uterine bleeding (AUB) from 2014-2016. Patients with vaginal bleeding that was determined to be associated with pregnancy, the postpartum period, non-uterine sources, or a previously established cancer diagnosis were excluded from the chart review. Variables including previously established gynecologic care at LUMC, Gynecology Service consult performed in the ED, and follow-up with an LUMC gynecologist within 6 weeks of the ED visit were recorded. Analysis of these variables was performed to examine any trends between interactions with Loyola gynecology and follow-up rates.

\textbf{RESULTS:} A total of 452 unique LUMC ED patient visits for AUB were analyzed. Of these patients, 33.40\% had previously established gynecologic care at LUMC, 20.35\% received a Gynecology Service consult in the ED, and 31.86\% followed-up with an LUMC gynecologist within 6 weeks of their ED visit. Overall, 42.70\% of patients had received previous care with Loyola Gynecology and/or received a Gynecology Service consult in the ED on the day of their visit. Of patients who had an encounter with LUMC Gynecology, either prior to or during their ED visit, 52.33\% followed-up after discharge. Amongst patients with no previous LUMC Gynecology interaction, only 16.60\% followed-up.

\textbf{CONCLUSIONS:} Patients who presented to LUMC ED with AUB were more likely to seek follow-up care if they had previously established gynecologic care and/or if they received a Gynecology Service consult in the ED. Gaining a greater understanding of the factors that influence whether a patient seeks follow-up care for AUB is crucial in improving healthcare continuity and patient outcomes.