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Elective Appendectomy at Time of Scheduled Gynecologic Surgery

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Committee Opinion on Gynecology Practice, Number 323, supports offering elective coincidental appendectomy at the time of unrelated primary gynecological surgery for women <35 years of age. Based on epidemiological data surrounding the incidence of appendicitis and the risks associated with emergency appendectomy, this population is predicted to benefit most from this prophylactic procedure. While data is limited, studies suggest that in the postoperative period, there is no significant increase in morbidity or mortality after performing a coincidental appendectomy during an unrelated surgical procedure versus performing the primary procedure alone. In addition, AGCME lists appendectomy as a milestone procedure that residents should know how to perform at the end of an OBGYN residency program. The purpose of this retrospective chart review is to assess whether attending clinicians are following this recommendation by ACOG to offer coincidental appendectomies to women <35 undergoing scheduled gynecologic surgery.