

AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMAND FOR CARE FOR PELVIC FLOOR DISORDERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Hypothesis / aims of study

Providers of care for women with pelvic floor disorders have observed a marked increase in the demand for care over the past 10 years. Prior estimates predicted a 45% increase between 2000 and 2030 [1]. However, we observed a 116% increase in demand for care between 2000 and 2010. Using updated data with improved accuracy, we sought to predict the demand for care for women with pelvic floor disorders over the next 20 years.

Study design, materials and methods

Demographic data on all women 30–89 years old seen for care of pelvic floor disorders in the Urogynecology Clinic at our institution between July 2009 and June 2011 were analyzed. Data accuracy was assessed by cross-referencing with referrals for pelvic floor disorders and patients seen for pelvic floor disorders in all clinics. Results were used to establish demand for care for pelvic floor disorders in 10-year age blocks and then used in conjunction with US Census Bureau data for 2010 and the middle series projected population for 2030 to estimate current demand for care and model future demand.

Results

During the two-year period studied, 4463 women were seen for consultation for pelvic floor disorders from a population of 169,853 women age 30 to 89. When corrected for 17.1% growth in the population, this represents an 84.2% increase in the consults generated per 1000 women per year compared to 1998. The majority of women seen for pelvic floor disorders (94%) were cared for by the Urogynecology service, and the number of consults seen approximately equaled the number of referrals placed, reflecting minimal barriers to access.

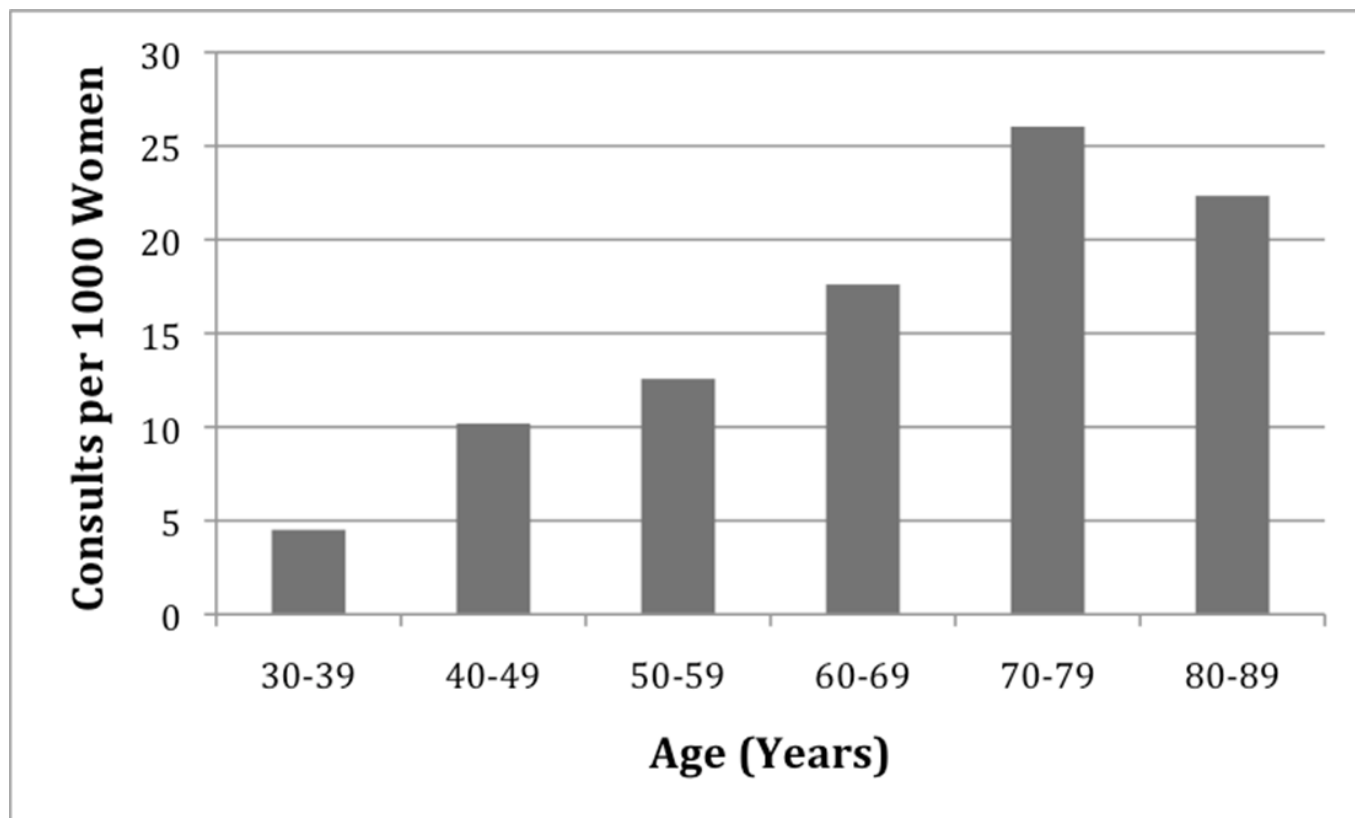


Figure 1. Consults per 1000 women per year 2010

Models created using the number of consults generated per 1000 women per 10-year age group per year (Figure 1) and the current US population estimate the demand for care for the US in 2010 to be approximately 1,218,371 new consults per year (Figure 2). Using population projections, we estimate that this will increase to 1,644,804 by 2030 (Figure 2).

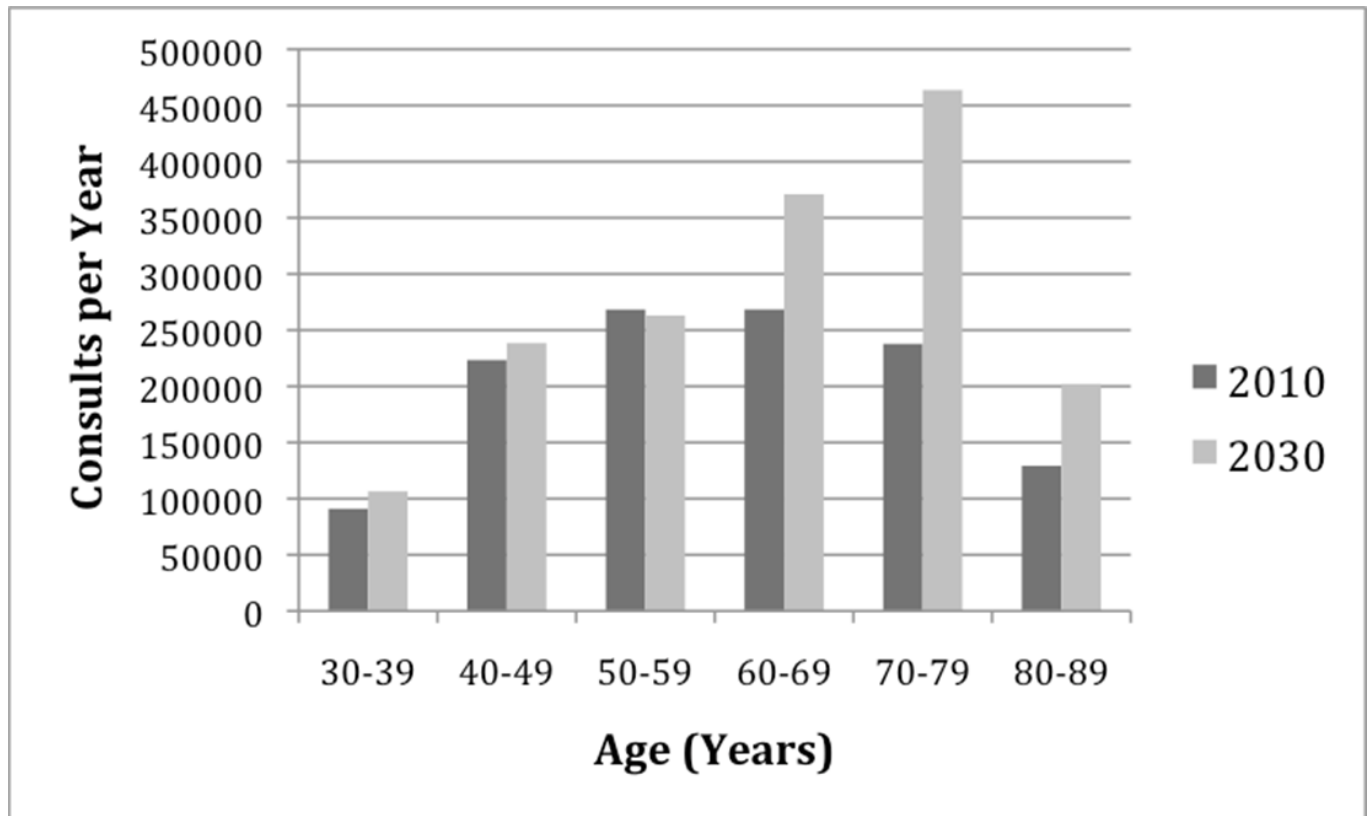


Figure 2. Consults per year in US 2010 and 2030

Interpretation of results

While the population will increase by 24% between 2010 and 2030, the demand for care for pelvic floor disorders will increase by 35%. These new, more accurate projections estimate 72% more consults per year (1,644,807) in 2030 than did our initial projections in published in 2001 (954,351). This increase is partially due to better clinic access but may also reflect increasing awareness of our speciality among patients as well as other physicians. In addition, it could reflect changing attitudes among women regarding how bothered they are by these disorders, and, if these changes continue, even this current analysis may be underestimating future demand.

Concluding message

These revised projections are based on improved baseline data with barriers to access removed. Quantifying this growing demand for care for pelvic floor disorders is important for public health planning and for physician training as we prepare to care for these patients in the future.

References

1. Luber KM, Boero S, Choe JY. The demographics of pelvic floor disorders: current observations and future projections. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2001 Jun;184(7):1496-1501; discussion 1501-1503.

Disclosures

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