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

Pelic floor disorders
Pelvic floor disorders, including pelvic organ prolapse, urinary incontinence, and fecal incontinence, have a large impact on women’s health. In the US, the prevalence of symptomatic pelvic floor disorders is 24%, more than 200,000 women have surgery for prolapse per year, and urinary incontinence results in an annual economic burden of at least 26 million dollars.

Inclusion demand for care
In 2001, we predicted a 45% increase in the demand for care of women with pelvic floor disorders between 2009 and 2030 to almost 1 million new patients per year in the United States. This projection was based on the number of new patients seen in Kaiser Permanente San Diego between 1997 and 1999. However, demand for care appeared to have increased faster than expected in our clinic 10 years later, so we wanted to update our projections.

Kaiser Permanente
Kaiser Permanente Health Care Program in Southern California is an integrated managed care system. In this health care delivery system in San Diego, members almost exclusively receive care within Kaiser, so it is possible to measure the number and proportion of patients who receive care. The electronic medical record system further makes it possible to extract information regarding patient ages and diagnoses, making it a good system in which to perform epidemiologic studies.

Objective
Using updated data from 2009-2011, we sought to improve our prediction regarding the number of women who will be seen for pelvic floor disorders in the US in 2030.

Methods

All new patients ages 30 to 89 seen for care of pelvic floor disorders over a 24-month period from July 2009 to June 2011 in the Urogynecology Clinic in Kaiser San Diego were included in the study. Patients were stratified into 10-year age blocks and compared with the number of women in the population served by Kaiser San Diego in order to calculate a ratio of how many new patients were seen per 1000 women in the population each year.

These ratios were then combined with data from the US Census Bureau in order to calculate current demand in the US in 2010 and predict future demand for care in the US in 2030.

Results
The average number of annual new patients seen between 2009 and 2011 in the Urogynecology Clinic at Kaiser in San Diego was 2,232, with the largest number of new patients between ages 50 and 70 (Figure 1).

Combining the proportions of women seen for pelvic floor disorders with the US Census Bureau for the whole country results in an estimated 1.2 million new patients in 2010 and predicts that 1.6 million women in the US will be seen in 2030 (Figure 3). Most growth will be in 60 to 90-year-olds.

Conclusions
With 24% population growth, we predict that the number of annual new visits for pelvic floor disorders will increase 35% to 1.6 million by 2030 in the US because of an aging population. This is the best estimate to date and has important implications for public health planning and physician training in the US in order to prepare for care for the growing number of women who will need care for pelvic floor disorders in the future.

References