



Original article

**Clinical and Economic Analysis of Abdominal versus Vaginal
Hysterectomy**

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ABSTRACT

Background: Hysterectomy is a common and high-cost surgical intervention. After cesarean section, it is the second most common surgical procedure in gynecology. Objectives: To evaluate the cost/effectiveness of vaginal hysterectomy versus abdominal hysterectomy. Method: Retrospective observational study, in 2,338 patients undergoing hysterectomy for benign pathology in the Gynecology Service of the Clinical Hospital of the University of Chile, in the period between January 1997 to December 2005. Clinical and cost variables were analyzed between the two approaches. Results: The age of the patients ranged between 27 and 86 years. Of the 2,338 hysterectomies, the vaginal route corresponded to 36.9% and the abdominal route to 63.1%; with a complication rate of 29.8/100 women operated vaginally and 42.8/100 women operated abdominally. Conclusion: This study suggests that the vaginal approach was associated with shorter operative times, fewer complications, and lower costs than the abdominal approach.

Keywords: *Vaginal hysterectomy ; abdominal hysterectomy ; cost-effectiveness of hysterectomies*

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