Evaluation of a standardized questionnaire for the assessment of abnormal uterine bleeding in premenopausal women

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Background
Abnormal uterine bleeding (AUB) has been recognized as a common, debilitating and expensive affection. The need to develop a standardized questionnaire to facilitate consultations for AUB has been expressed repeatedly through previous studies and the advantages of such a tool have already been established for other health problems.

Aims
To compare quality and completeness of data collected in medical records as well as length of consultation before and after implementation of an AUB-specific standardized questionnaire for premenopausal women.

Methods
We conducted a before and after study on 100 premenopausal women having a specialist consultation for AUB at the CHU de Québec-CHUL. During stage 1, 50 consultations were recorded on a standard consultation sheet. During stage 2, an AUB-specific standardized questionnaire was completed by 50 women immediately before the consultation and then reviewed and joined to the final consultation in the electronic medical record. The length of the consultation was assessed (time from the beginning of the encounter to the completion of the medical note) in a subgroup of 27 consultations in each stage, in which no trainees were involved.

Data collection and analysis
Two independent evaluators assessed the completeness and quality of the data collected in the medical records using a score sheet (/100) developed by a group of experts. If disagreements were not resolved by consensus, a third reviewer was consulted. Outcomes from stages 1 and 2 were compared using the Student’s T test.

Results
Women's characteristics were similar in both stages of the study. Trainees participated in 25% of consultations (stage 1=26%, stage 2=24%). The mean score of completeness and quality of data collected in the medical record improved significantly between stage 1 and 2, from 66% ± 12% to 95% ± 4% (P < .001) in global score as well as in medical history (55% ± 24% vs 85% ± 13%, P < .001) and history of present illness subsections (67% ± 12% vs 97% ± 4%, P < .001). A mean reduction in the length of consultation of about 4 minutes was observed after the implementation of the standardized questionnaire (24.6 ± 4.3 minutes vs 20.7 ± 4.8 minutes, P < .001).

Conclusion
The routine utilization of an AUB-specific standardized questionnaire in clinic could improve the quality and completeness of data collected in medical records and reduce the time required for consultation. Future work could evaluate if such a tool could facilitate cohort studies in this population.

Keywords : Abnormal uterine bleeding, standardized questionnaire, assessment
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References :

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