Long-term Follow-up after Endometrial Ablation in Finland
Cancer Risks and Later Hysterectomies

Tuuli Soini, MD, Matti Rantanen, MSc, Jorma Paavonen, MD, Seija Grénman, MD, Johanna Mäenpää, MD, Eero Pukkala, PhD, Mika Gissler, PhD, and Ritva Hurskainen, MD

(Obstet Gynecol 2017;130:554–60)

1. Over the years, techniques of endometrial ablation have changed, and from 1997 to 2014, several methods of ablation have evolved. Review the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Practice Bulletin No. 81 (see Obstet Gynecol 2007;109:1233–48). List the various methods of endometrial ablation and their advantages and disadvantages.

2. What type of study did the authors conduct? Discuss the rationale for choosing controls rather than including the entire cohort of women in the database. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this approach?

3. Discuss the main findings of this study with respect to 1) the incidence of endometrial cancer and breast cancer and 2) the risk of hysterectomy. How might these findings influence your counseling of patients undergoing ablation?

4. List late complications of endometrial ablation. Which of these may affect the ability of the authors to detect endometrial cancer?

5. The authors found factors that were associated with reduced and increased risk for hysterectomy. List them and discuss possible underlying physiologic processes that would explain these associations. Are there associations for which you cannot identify any possible physiologic explanations?

6. The authors utilized a large national registry in Finland. What are the advantages and disadvantages of national registries?

7. Go to the homepage for the Finish Population Register Center (see http://vrk.fi/en/frontpage). What types of data are they collecting? What are the barriers to creating such a registry in the United States?

8. The authors state that the registry does not include racial data. Discuss whether these data apply to women of other races.