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In patients having a robotic hysterectomy, how does the amount of IV fluids given post-operatively affect the patients' length of stay?

**Heidi Fox, RN III, CAPA, ASU, MMC**

Background: Over the last few years, ASU (ambulatory surgery unit) nurses have noted difficulty with discharging patients undergoing robotic hysterectomy in a timely manner due to both nausea and the inability to void. The nurses have also discerned inconsistencies with regards to the post-operative care including pre-operative bowel prep, amount of IV fluid given post-operatively and anti-nausea meds given. This prompted a literature search and a critical appraisal of pertinent research articles related to robotic procedures.

Purpose: (1.) To conduct a prospective chart review and identify/determine the factors which contribute to an extended length of stay in ASU for robotic hysterectomy patients. (2.) To plan, implement and evaluate one standard of care for robotic hysterectomy patients post-operatively.

Results/Review of the Literature: The critical appraisal of pertinent literature suggests that there is a need for a standardized peri-op care protocol/pathway in the robotic hysterectomy patient population.

Time Frame: The time frame for this project is undetermined. Currently, the OB/Gyn. physicians are reviewing the summary of the appraised literature (i.e. Evidenced Based Practice Summary Table) and are open to working on this project with ASU staff.