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Abstract:

Objective: To describe attending obstetricians' self-reported confidence to recognize and repair obstetric anal sphincter injuries (OASIS), assess knowledge of anatomy and risk factors for OASIS and evaluate the need for a protocol.

Study Design: A questionnaire was distributed to attending obstetricians at seven major medical centers. The survey was divided into categories including demographics, self-reported confidence at recognition of OASIS, self-reported competence at OASIS repair, questions on anatomy and risk factors for OASIS and need for a protocol for OASIS repair.

Results: We collected 82 questionnaires for a response rate of 40.2 percent. Twenty-two (26.8%) and 59 (72%) survey respondents were respectively mostly confident or very confident and only one (1.2%) was somewhat confident at OASIS recognition. Thirty-two (39%) participants felt mostly competent, and 47 (57.3%) felt very competent at OASIS repairs. Percentage of correct answers to the objective questions on anatomy and risk factors ranged from 45.1 to 58.5. Overall performance in objective questions did not differ by self-reported competence in repair of higher order lacerations (p = 0.09). Eighty-four percent (84%) of participants desired a protocol for OASIS repair. Conclusions: Our study shows that self-reported confidence in detecting OASIS and competence in repair of OASIS does not correlate with knowledge of anatomy and risk factors of OASIS. The majority of survey responders desired an OASIS protocol at their institution.