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A PRELIMINARY STUDY ON HYSTERECTOMY RATE IN TAIWAN

CHUEH CHANG¹, CHU-HUI CHANG¹, SHU-FEN KU²,
YOW-HWEY HU³

In order to understand the hysterectomy and oophorectomy rates as well as the surgical trends of Chinese women in Taiwan, a community survey and hospital medical records examination has been studied. The community survey covered 1300 women aged 40 to 60 years. There were 674 women from the Taipei metropolitan area, 197 from southern Taiwan rural areas, 149 from Hualien county in the east, and 280 from Hsinchu county in central Taiwan. The hospital medical records came from the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of one Teaching hospital in Taipei area.

After age adjusted the community subjects, the hysterectomy rates were 10.1% in Taipei, 9.5% in Hualien, 8.1% in Hsinchu county, and 6.4% in the southern Taiwan ru-

ral area. The oophorectomy rates were from 5.4% to 2.6%. After examining the medical records from 1984 to 1993, the number of removals of the whole uterus in 1993 was double the number of removals in 1984 (from 600 to 1200). The number of partial removals of the ovary increased from 300 in 1984 to 450 in 1993. However, the number of removals of both ovaries and partial removals of the uterus remained constant. It is suggested that large-scale studies of the prevalence of hysterectomies are needed. Further studies on related factors of hysterectomy, especially from the policy viewpoint of preventing malpractice and de-medicalizing physician-patient interactions, are also recommended. (*Chin J Public Health (Taipei)*: 1995; **14**(6): 487-493)

Key words: *Hysterectomy, Prevalence, Oophorectomy*

¹ Institute of Public Health, National Taiwan University.

² National Taiwan University Hospital.

³ Department of Health Welfare Policy, National Yang-Ming University.