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The IAS is a volunteer organization for the promotion of awareness and research into Adhesion Related Disorder, as well as the support of patients and families afflicted with ARD.

Founder

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Do Men Get Adhesions?

David Wiseman PhD, MRPharmS, Founder, International Adhesions Society

It is a common myth that only women are prone to adhesions. While it is certainly true that women have more “internal parts” that require surgery, which inevitably leads to adhesions, men are not excluded from the problem of adhesions.

A simple look at the national statistics collected from hospital discharges (ICD9 codes) from the most recent data available (2001-2005) reveals the following:

- Over 50,000 men were discharged from hospital in 2005 with a diagnosis of peritoneal adhesions (568.0), accounting for 28% of such diagnoses, compared with 72% for women.
- Over 37,000 men were discharged in 2005 with a diagnosis that included the specific diagnosis of intestinal adhesions with (ie causing) bowel obstruction (560.81). This number accounts for 38% of cases, compared with 62% for women.
- Men also accounted for 37% of discharges with a principal diagnosis (as opposed to an incidental diagnosis) was intestinal adhesions with obstruction (560.81). Their length of stay was slightly higher than that of women in 3 of the five years studied and their hospital charges exceeded those of women in every year by as much as \$2500.
- Over 2000 men and women died every year with a diagnosis of intestinal adhesions with obstruction, representing about 3% of the total discharges with that diagnosis. The contribution of males to this death rate was in every year slightly higher than that of women in proportion to their discharges, by 10-15% in the years 2002-2005, and about 2% in 2001.

Overall discharges for men and women have been climbing at the same rate over the five year period studied.

CONCLUSION

Peritoneal adhesions afflict, conservatively over 50,000 men each year, with over 27,000 men having adhesions with obstruction. A man with a diagnosis of adhesions with intestinal obstruction has a slightly higher risk of dying than a woman, as well a slightly higher of hospitalization, approaching some \$48000.

Adhesions are a significant clinical problem for men and women. Although we have focused on only one consequence of adhesions, bowel obstruction, it is likely that the trends observed here will be observed for other consequences of adhesions, namely pain and other bowel disturbances.

Year		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
ICD-9-CM diagnosis code 568.0 Peritoneal Adhesions						
All diagnoses – Discharges						
All	Discharges	156,621 (100.00%)	168,154 (100.00%)	172,935 (100.00%)	180,806 (100.00%)	186,387 (100.00%)
Male		40,332 (25.75%)	45,059 (26.80%)	47,506 (27.47%)	48,799 (26.99%)	52,281 (28.05%)
Female		116,289 (74.25%)	123,091 (73.20%)	125,282 (72.44%)	131,744 (72.86%)	133,846 (71.81%)
ICD-9-CM diagnosis code 560.81, Intestinal Adhes W Obstr						
All diagnoses - Discharges						
All	Discharges	89,048 (100.00%)	91,664 (100.00%)	88,965 (100.00%)	94,708 (100.00%)	99,075 (100.00%)
Male		32,935 (36.99%)	34,908 (38.08%)	33,538 (37.70%)	35,864 (37.87%)	37,414 (37.76%)
Female		56,104 (63.00%)	56,756 (61.92%)	55,231 (62.08%)	58,618 (61.89%)	61,392 (61.97%)
Principal Diagnosis Only - Discharges						
All	Discharges	67,884	70,437	66976	72215	73,881
Male		24,863	26,457	24580	26952	27,330
Female		43,012	43,980	42220	45049	46,292
M %		37%	38%	37%	37%	37%
F %		63%	62%	63%	62%	63%
Male	Length of Stay	9.7	10	9.7	9.8	9.6
Female		9.9	9.7	9.8	9.5	9.5
Male	Charges	32,085	37,546	41,033	44,226	47,850
Female		31,993	35,254	40,114	41,678	45,951
Male	Deaths	823	962	893	876	833
Female		1,396	1,404	1418	1264	1285
M % of tot		1.21%	1.37%	1.33%	1.21%	1.13%
F % of tot		2.06%	1.99%	2.12%	1.75%	1.74%
M % of sex		3.31%	3.64%	3.63%	3.25%	3.05%
F % of sex		3.25%	3.19%	3.36%	2.81%	2.78%

Source: Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality