

12-month outcomes of the US patient cohort in the SONATA pivotal IDE trial of transcervical ablation of uterine fibroids

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Objective: The prospective SONATA pivotal Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) trial was performed in the United States (US) and Mexico to examine the safety and effectiveness of transcervical fibroid ablation (TFA) in the treatment of symptomatic uterine fibroids. This is an analysis of 12-month clinical outcomes in the US cohort.

Methods: TFA with the Sonata[®] System was performed on women with symptomatic uterine fibroids. The 12-month co-primary endpoints were reduction in menstrual blood loss and freedom from surgical reintervention. Symptom severity, quality of life, patient satisfaction, safety, and reductions in uterine and fibroid volumes were also evaluated.

Results: One hundred twenty-five patients were enrolled and treated in the US. Both co-primary endpoints were achieved in this US-based cohort, as 65.3% of patients reported $\geq 50\%$ reduction in menstrual bleeding and 99.2% of patients were free from surgical reintervention. Symptom improvement was noted by 97.4% of patients and 98.3% were satisfied. Ninety-five percent of patients reported reduced menstrual bleeding at 12 months, and 86.8% noted $>20\%$ reduction. Significant mean improvements at 12 months were realized in both symptom severity and health-related quality of life (33.8 points and 45.8 points, respectively; all $P < 0.0001$). Mean maximal fibroid volume reduction per patient was 63.8%. There was a 0% incidence of device related adverse events. Mean length of stay was 2.5 hrs and 50% of patients returned to normal activity within 1 day.

Conclusion: This analysis of US patients in the SONATA pivotal IDE trial demonstrates results consistent with those in the full cohort. TFA with Sonata significantly reduced fibroid symptoms with a low surgical reintervention rate through 12 months. These results support the efficacy and safety of the Sonata system as a first-line treatment for women affected by symptomatic uterine fibroids.

Keywords: uterine leiomyoma, transcervical fibroid ablation; TFA, radiofrequency ablation, Sonata system

Introduction

The SONATA pivotal IDE trial ("SONATA trial," ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier NCT02228174) was a prospective, longitudinal, multicenter, single-arm trial of transcervical fibroid ablation (TFA) with the Sonata[®] system in a cohort of women with symptomatic uterine fibroids.¹ The primary endpoints at 12 months have been reported, and follow up is ongoing through 36 months. The overall trial population of 147 women were made up of patients from the US (n=125) and Mexico (n=22). Previous clinical results with the Sonata system demonstrated

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significant improvements in menstrual bleeding, quality of life and overall symptom severity in conjunction with excellent safety and surgical reintervention; total fibroid volume was reduced by 62%–67% at 12 months.^{1,2} This analysis examines the 12-month clinical outcomes of TFA with the Sonata system in the US patient cohort from the full SONATA trial.

Materials and methods

The Sonata system (Gynesonics, Inc; Redwood City, CA, USA), which has received United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clearance and Conformité Européenne (CE) Mark, has been described in detail.^{2–5} Previously known as VizAblate™, the Sonata system (Figure 1) consists of a custom RF generator, a laptop-based ultrasound system with custom Graphical Guidance Software (GGS), and a single-use Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) Handpiece integrally combined with a reusable Intrauterine Ultrasound (IUUS) Probe in a single treatment device. This system provides the gynecologist with a real-time, image-guided transcervical treatment option. Therapeutic radiofrequency energy is delivered to the fibroid according to a treatment cycle that is dependent on ablation size. Each ablation is scalable and determined graphically by the treating physician, maximizing the percentage of each fibroid to be ablated while avoiding thermal injury to adjacent viscera. The anesthesia choice for each patient may be individualized, as there is no requirement for general anesthesia; conscious sedation, and regional anesthesia (all with or without adjuvant paracervical blockade) were options provided within the SONATA clinical trial.

Premenopausal women between ages 25–50 with symptomatic uterine fibroids associated with heavy

menstrual bleeding were eligible for the SONATA trial if they had up to 10 myomata of International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) types 1, 2, 3, 4, and/or 2–5 (transmural) between 1–5 cm in diameter, experienced heavy menstrual bleeding as documented by a pictorial blood loss assessment chart (PBAC) score between 150–500, and had at least one fibroid that either indented (FIGO types 1, 2, 2–5) or abutted (FIGO type 3) the endometrial cavity. While type 5 and type 6 subserous myomata did not count towards the total number of fibroids, they could be ablated at the discretion of the investigator. Women were excluded if they desired fertility, had type 0 fibroids 1 cm or larger, had multiple endometrial polyps or any polyps ≥ 1.5 cm in diameter, a history of endometrial or fibroid ablation, prior uterine artery embolization (UAE), current tubal implants and clinically significant adenomyosis or substantial fibroid calcification.

Patients underwent screening that included transvaginal sonography, contrast-enhanced magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, assessment of menstrual bleeding via a pictorial blood loss assessment chart (PBAC), symptomatology and quality of life evaluation using the Uterine Fibroid Symptom and Quality-of-Life (UFS-QoL) Questionnaire, and a recording of baseline general health status using the EQ-5D (EuroQoL) questionnaire. All patients underwent cervical cancer and endometrial hyperplasia/carcinoma screening.

The US FDA approved the SONATA Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) trial in the US. Approvals were obtained from local and central institutional review boards (Table S1) prior to patient enrollment. The research was conducted according to the principles stated in the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki. Each patient provided her written informed consent to participate in the trial. All studies and records had protected health information deidentified.

The two co-primary endpoints of the SONATA trial, as required by the FDA, consisted of menstrual bleeding reduction at 12 months and freedom from surgical reintervention due to heavy menstrual bleeding (HMB) through 12 months. Overall study success required meeting the individual success criteria for both co-primary endpoints. Each patient was considered to have had a successful treatment outcome if she experienced $\geq 50\%$ reduction in PBAC score with the score being < 250 . In terms of study success for this endpoint, the lower confidence limit (LCL) of the percentage of patient success was $\geq 45\%$. For the



Figure 1 The Sonata treatment device, combining an intrauterine sonography probe with a radiofrequency ablation handpiece into a single integrated handpiece.

surgical reintervention co-primary endpoint, patient success was defined as a lack of surgical reintervention for HMB due to treatment failure at 12 months, and its study success criterion was a LCL of the percentage of patient success $\geq 75\%$.

Secondary endpoints included patient safety, reduction in total and perfused fibroid volumes at 12 months, change in the symptom severity score (SSS) and health-related quality of life (HRQOL) subscales of the UFS-QOL Questionnaire, overall patient treatment outcome using the Overall Treatment Effect (OTE) questionnaire, time to return to normal activity, patient satisfaction, change in general health outcome as determined by the EQ-5D questionnaire, pain and tolerance of the procedure, mean length of stay (LOS) and occurrence of pregnancy with pregnancy outcome. Treated patients were followed at 10 days, 30 days, 3 months, 6 months and at 12 months, with longer-term follow-up planned for 24 months and 36 months.

All statistical analyses were performed with SAS 9.3 (SAS, Cary, NC). Values were considered significant at the level of $\alpha=0.05$.

Results

Twenty-one clinical study sites in the US enrolled and treated 125 patients. Baseline patient and fibroid characteristics are provided in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively. Mean age of enrolled patients was 43.4 ± 4.0 years with a mean body mass index (BMI) of 29.5 ± 6.4 (kg/m^2). Patients were 48% White, 39% Black, and 17% Latina (Table 1).

Three patients were excluded from the Full Analysis Set population as they were diagnosed with menopause during the 12 months after TFA with the Sonata system, with a resultant inability to provide a PBAC diary at their 12-month visits. Thus, the Full Analysis Set consists of 122 patients of the 125 patients. For the menstrual bleeding reduction endpoint, 121 of the 122 patients were included in this analysis, as one patient who underwent surgical reintervention prior to her 12-month visit was excluded from the analysis of this endpoint per the study statistical analysis plan. For the surgical reintervention endpoint evaluation, all 122 patients in the Full Analysis Set were included.

All 125 patients were treated in an outpatient setting, including 7 physician practice offices and 4 ambulatory care centers. Sixty-nine patients (55.2%) were treated in an operating room, 33 (26.4%) received their procedures in

Table 1 Baseline Patient Characteristics

Characteristic	Results
Age ¹ , N	125
Mean \pm SD	43.5 ± 4.0
Median	44.0
Min, Max	33, 50
Ethnicity, N	125
Hispanic or Latino	21 (16.8%)
Not Hispanic or Latino	104 (83.2%)
Race ² , N	125
American Indian or Alaska Native	3 (2.4%)
Asian	2 (1.6%)
Black or African American	49 (39.2%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1 (0.8%)
White	60 (48.0%)
Other	11 (8.8%)
BMI, N ³	125
Mean \pm SD	29.5 ± 6.4
Median	28.0
Min, Max	18.0, 49.8

Notes: ¹Age in years. ²Subjects indicating multiple races are counted once under each race. Percentages may add to more than 100%. ³Calculated for those with both height and weight measurements (kg/m^2)

Table 2 Baseline PBAC and Fibroid Characteristics, Full Analysis Set (N=122)

Characteristic	Results
PBAC, N	122
Mean \pm SD	293.5 ± 96.1
Median	281.0
Min, Max	150.2, 498.3
Total Fibroid Volume (cc), N	117
Mean \pm SD	72.3 ± 90.1
Median	38.9
Min, Max	0.8, 522.9
Total Uterine Volume (cc), N	122
Mean \pm SD	272.9 ± 155.8
Median	234.4
Min, Max	80.7, 868.1

an ambulatory care center while 23 (18.4%) patients were treated in a physician office. Seventy-four patients (59.2%) received general anesthesia while 51 (40.8%) had their procedures under conscious sedation. Paracervical blockade was co-administered as an ancillary local anesthetic modality in 54 (43.2%) of patients. Mean length of stay

Table 3 Change in PBAC Score by Visit

PBAC Score	Baseline	3 Months ^a	Change	% Change
N	121	117	117	117
Mean ± SD	293.9 ± 96.3	175.9 ± 110.3	-119.3 ± 116.0	-38.9 ± 39.1
Median	283.6	153.4	-113.0	-44.4
Min, Max	150.2, 498.3	11.7, 647.8	-395.2, 445.1	-96.5, 219.6
P			<.0001	<.0001
N		6 Months	Abs. Change	% Change
Mean ± SD		121	121	121
Median		146.3 ± 102.7	-147.6 ± 105.7	-50.0 ± 30.2
Min, Max		114.9	-133.5	-56.1
P		11.7, 519.9	-469.5, 124.9	-94.8, 38.3
			<.0001	<.0001
N		12 Months	Abs. Change	% Change
Mean ± SD		121	121	121
Median		141.3 ± 107.2	-152.6 ± 125.0	-50.2 ± 42.4
Min, Max		130.7	-145.2	-58.1
P		0.0, 902.2	-491.9, 679.4	-100.0, 304.9
			<.0001	<.0001

(including procedure time) was 2.5 ± 1.3 hrs, with 91 of 125 patients (72.8%) having a length of stay ≤ 3 hrs. Median length of stay was 2.3 hrs.

Nearly all patients (95%; 115/121) experienced some reduction in menstrual bleeding at 12 months after TFA, with 86.3% experiencing reduced menstrual bleeding by 3 months. Regarding the 12-month PBAC timepoint, 65.3% (79/121) of patients (95% CI 56.1–73.7%) reported at least 50% reduction in menstrual bleeding, which met the endpoint success criterion that the LCL of the 95% CI be $\geq 45\%$. Detailed PBAC reduction results are provided in [Table 3](#).

The other co-primary endpoint, surgical reintervention for heavy menstrual bleeding at 12 months post-ablation, was also met. Only one patient underwent surgical intervention (elective hysterectomy for abnormal uterine bleeding) within the first 12 months of her post-treatment course. Thus, 99.2% (95% CI 94.3–99.9%) of patients were free from surgical reintervention for heavy menstrual bleeding at 12 months after treatment with the Sonata system. This outcome met the endpoint success criterion that the LCL of the 95% CI be $\geq 75\%$. The percentage of patients achieving either co-primary endpoint did not significantly vary by ethnicity and were similar for White, Black and Latina patients.

Treatment with the Sonata system resulted in significant improvements in all patient-reported outcomes, beginning

with the 3-month visit (the first post-treatment visit that included these questionnaires). As seen in [Figure 2](#), patients reported a mean SSS reduction of 33.8 points (N=115) at 12 months post-procedure ($P < 0.0001$) and a mean increase of 45.8 points in HRQOL (N=115; $P < 0.0001$). Regarding the OTE questionnaire, 97.4% of patients responding at 12 months (112/115) noted improvement in their fibroid symptoms, while 1.7% (2/115) reported no change in symptoms and 0.9% (1/115) noted a worsening of symptoms.

Patients reported significantly improved health status on the EQ-5D questionnaire at 12 months post-procedure. Self-reported scores on the EQ-5D questionnaire range from values of less than 0, representing health states worse than “death”, to a maximum score of 1.0, representing “perfect health.” At baseline, US patients in the SONATA trial had a mean overall health score of 0.73 (N=122). At 12 months (N=114), their mean EQ-5D score rose to 0.90 ($P < 0.0001$). Of note, health status significantly improved as early as 3 months after treatment with Sonata, with EQ-5D scores rose to 0.88 at 3 months (n=118; $P < 0.0001$).

Of 115 patients reporting at 12 months, 98.3% of patients expressed satisfaction with their treatment, and a similar percentage (96.5%) would also recommend Sonata to a friend or family member. Specifically, 70.4% of reporting patients indicated that they were “very satisfied” with treatment, 18.3% were “moderately

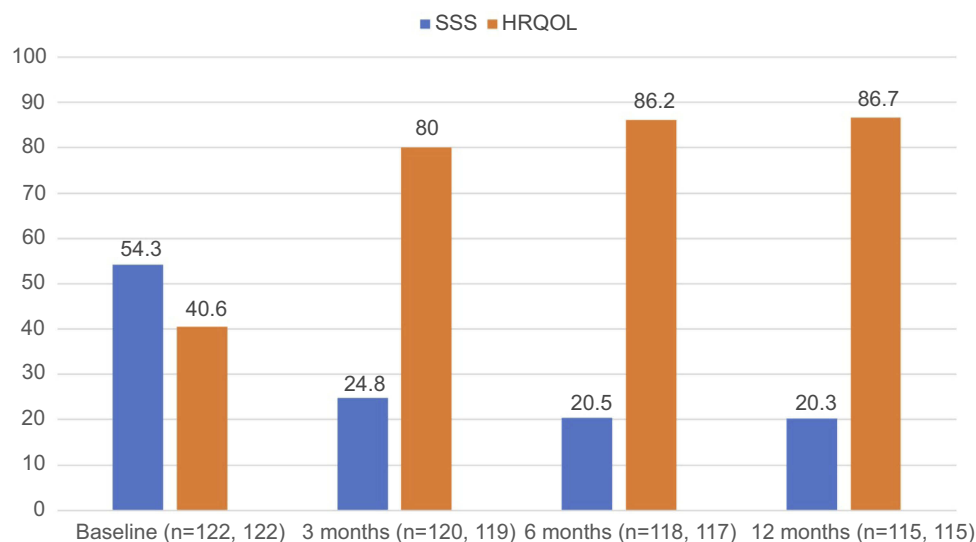


Figure 2 Improvements in uterine fibroid symptom and quality of life questionnaire subscales through 12 months in the FAS population (mean values). The SSS subscale demonstrates symptom reduction whereas the HRQoL subscale denotes increases in health-related quality of life. The results on both subscales signify improvement (all $P < 0.0001$).

satisfied,” 9.6% were “somewhat satisfied,” 0.9% were “somewhat dissatisfied,” and 0.9% were “moderately dissatisfied” at 12 months. No patients were “very dissatisfied” with their treatment. Similarly, 82.6% (95/115) would “definitely recommend” treatment with Sonata, 13.9% would “probably recommend” it, and 3.5% would “probably not recommend” it at 12 months. No patient indicated that she would “definitely not recommend” the treatment.

Pain scores were evaluated on a scale from 0 (“No pain sensation”) to 10 (“Most intense pain imaginable”). Mean procedural pain scores were 0.01 ± 0.1 for procedures under general anesthesia ($N=74$) and 0.6 ± 1.6 for procedures performed under conscious sedation ($N=51$). Recovery pain scores were 3.4 ± 2.9 for patients receiving general anesthesia and 2.5 ± 2.7 for those who were treated under conscious sedation. Overall, 98% (122/125) of patients found treatment with the Sonata system to have been tolerable. Specifically, 63.2% (79/125) of patients reported the procedure to have been “Very Tolerable”, 32% (40/147) found the procedure to be “Moderately Tolerable”, 2.4% (3/147) characterized it as “Minimally Tolerable”, and 2.4% (3/147) said it was “Intolerable”. Overall mean pain scores regardless of anesthesia choice were 0.2 ± 1.0 (range 0.0–7.0) during the procedure and 3.0 ± 2.8 (range 0.0–10.0) during recovery (reported from the time between procedure completion and discharge).

Table 4 Attributes of Ablated Fibroids*

Procedure Parameter	
Treated Fibroid Diameter, N	392
<1 cm	20 (5.1%)
1 – 2 cm	144 (36.7%)
>2 – 3 cm	108 (27.6%)
>3 – 4 cm	69 (17.6%)
>4 cm	51 (13.0%)
Treated Fibroid Type, N	392
Type 1	13 (3.3%)
Type 2	76 (19.4%)
Type 2-5	70 (17.9%)
Type 3	102 (26.0%)
Type 4	89 (22.7%)
Type 5	39 (9.9%)
Type 6	3 (0.8%)
Number of Fibroids/Patient, N	125
Mean \pm SD	3.6 ± 2.2
Median	3.0
Min, Max	1.0, 10.0
Number of Treated Fibroids/Patient, N	125
Mean \pm SD	3.1 ± 2.2
Median	3.0
Min, Max	1.0, 9.0
Treated Fibroid Diameter (cm), N	392
Mean \pm SD	2.5 ± 1.2
Median	2.3
Min, Max	0.3, 6.5

Notes: *Determined via intrauterine sonography at the time of treatment
SD, standard deviation;

Table 4 summarizes characteristics of ablated fibroids. The mean maximal reduction in total leiomyoma volume per patient from baseline to 12 months was 63.8% (N=109). Of the 121 patients included in the analysis of the bleeding reduction co-primary endpoint, there were 33 patients (27.3%) for whom a type 3 myoma was the sole qualifying fibroid type (ie, they did not have an indenting fibroid such as a type 2 myoma). Of these 33 patients, 22 (66.7%) had at least a 50% reduction in PBAC score at 12 months. This is similar to the percentages of patients with indenting fibroids who achieved a 50% or greater reduction in PBAC score at 12 months (58.3%, 67.4% and 63.0% for patients with at least one type 1 fibroid, patients without any type 1 fibroids and at least one type 2 fibroid, and patients without any type 1 and type 2 fibroids and at least one type 2-5 fibroid, respectively).

Patients reported returning to normal daily activities in 2.1 ± 2.3 days, and half of the patients returned to normal activity the day following the procedure. Patients with employment at the time of procedure indicated having returned to work 3.7 ± 2.6 days post-procedure on average, with half of the patients returning to work within 3 days after the procedure. Patients resumed a normal diet at 0.7 ± 1.3 days, normal sleep at 0.8 ± 1.7 days, and normal urinary and bowel functions at 0.2 ± 0.7 days and 1.5 ± 1.9 days, respectively.

There were no occurrences (0.0%) of device related adverse events, serious or otherwise. There was 1 procedure-related serious adverse events reported in a single subject (0.8%). That single procedure-related serious adverse event involved a deep venous lower extremity thrombus diagnosed 15 days post-procedure, managed as an outpatient without sequelae.

As shown in **Table 5**, the results of the US cohort from the SONATA trial and that of the original cohort including patients from Mexico are provided.

Discussion

TFA with the Sonata system provides a safe and effective transcervical treatment for symptomatic uterine fibroids that uses RF ablation to treat all types of nonpedunculated fibroids.⁵ Because it contains an integral intrauterine sonography probe, Sonata can image, target and treat fibroids that are not accessible to other transcervical methods such as hysteroscopic morcellation or resectoscopy. Indeed, in the SONATA clinical trial, 77.3% of treated fibroids in the US cohort were not amenable to operative hysteroscopy, including intramural, transmural and subserous myomata. While it is true that some type 1 and type 2 submucous

Table 5 Outcomes of the Full and US-only Cohorts of the SONATA Pivotal IDE Trial

Parameter	SONATA (US+Mexico)	SONATA (US)
$\geq 50\%$ reduction in menstrual bleeding at 12 months (%)	64.8 (N=142)	65.3 (N=121)
Freedom from surgical reintervention at 12 months (%)	99.3 (N=143)	99.2 (N=122)
Mean SSS reduction at 12 months (points)	32.1 (N=135)	33.8 (N=115)
Mean HRQOL increase at 12 months (points)	43.7 (N=134)	45.8 (N=115)
Percentage of patients reporting improvement in overall fibroid symptoms (OTE questionnaire)	96.3 (N=135)	97.4 (N=115)
Mean return to normal daily activities (days)	2.2 (N=139)	2.1 (N=118)
Mean return to work (days)	3.6 (N=111)	3.7 (N=96)
Mean length of stay (hours)	2.5 (N=147)	2.5 (N=125)
Percentage of patients at least "Somewhat Satisfied" at 12 months	97.1 (N=135)	98.3 (N=115)
Percentage of patients who would at least "Probably Recommend" Sonata to a friend or family member	97.1 (N=135)	96.5 (N=115)

myomata can be resected hysteroscopically, TFA obviates the inconvenience involved in removal of the resultant fibroid fragments, can address larger and deeper submucous fibroids that are less amenable to resection, and can be used in the same session to ablate other nonresectable fibroids without the need to also employ a resectoscope.

The US cohort represents 85% of patients treated in the SONATA trial, as 22 patients (15%) in the 147-patient SONATA pivotal IDE trial were enrolled in Mexico. Clinical outcomes for US patients in the SONATA trial were consistent with those in the full (US+Mexico) SONATA trial population. The US cohort results also met both co-primary endpoints of the clinical trial.

Results from this US cohort of the SONATA trial as well as those from the full trial are consistent with the results of the previous FAST-EU trial, in which 64.6% of patients (31/48) experienced a $>50\%$ reduction in menstrual bleeding and reported a mean reduction of 35.3 points in their SSS, both at 12 months.^{1,3} In both the full and US-only cohorts of the SONATA trial, 95% of patients had bleeding reduction, with 86.3% of patients experiencing bleeding reduction by 3 months. In the overall SONATA cohort of 147 patients, there were two

reported procedure-related serious adverse events, one in Mexico and one in the US. There were no device related adverse events, serious or otherwise in the full SONATA or US cohorts. Patient satisfaction was similar in both groups.

The SONATA clinical trial was noteworthy for its inclusion of a wide variety of fibroid types (every FIGO fibroid type other than pedunculated fibroids [types 0 and 7] are treatable by the Sonata system) and increased number of treatable fibroids/patient compared with the prior FAST-EU clinical trial in Europe and Mexico.^{2,3} The SONATA trial included a robust patient selection process to minimize confounding factors, excluding patients with other etiologies of abnormal uterine bleeding such as anovulation and bleeding disorders. Furthermore, the study included a mix of patient-reported outcomes to complement the objective reintervention and bleeding primary endpoints.

Patients who expressly desired fertility were excluded. This was secondary to ethical reasons as SONATA was a pivotal safety and effectiveness investigational study. Nonetheless, the SONATA trial includes 3-year follow up of patients and the reporting of any pregnancy outcomes should they occur.

Conclusion

This analysis of US patients in the SONATA pivotal IDE trial demonstrates results consistent with those in the full cohort. TFA with Sonata significantly reduced fibroid symptoms with a low surgical reintervention rate through 12 months. These results support the efficacy and safety of the Sonata system as a first-line treatment for women affected by symptomatic uterine fibroids.

Authors' Data Sharing Statement

Will individual participant data be available (including data dictionaries)? No.

What data in particular will be shared: Not available.

What other study-related documents will be available? Not available.

When will data be available (start and end dates)? Not applicable.

By what access criteria will data be shared (including with whom, for what types of analyses, and by what mechanism)? Not applicable.

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Disclosure

Joseph Hudgens reports he is one of the members at Speakers Bureau for Applied Medical. Andrea S Lukes reports grants from Gynesonics, Abbvie, Myovant, and Bayer, during the conduct of the study. David A Forstein reports grants from Gynesonics, Inc, during the conduct of the study. The institutions of each author received research support from Gynesonics, Inc. The authors report no other conflicts of interest in this work.

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Supplementary material

Table S1 List of each Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Institution Name	IRB
Arizona Gynecology Consultants	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
Advanced Women's Health Institute	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
GW Medical Faculty Associates	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
Christiana Care Health System	Christiana Care, IRB
KO Clinical Research	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
Virtus Research Consultants	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
University of Maryland School of Medicine	University of Maryland-Baltimore, IRB
Wayne State University Physician Group	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
Mercy Clinic	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
University of Mississippi Medical Center	University of Mississippi Medical Center, IRB
Women's Wellness Clinic	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
Cooper University Hospital	Cooper Health System, IRB
Bosque Women's Care	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
Albert Einstein School of Medicine-Montefiore	Biomedical Research Alliance of New York IRB (BRANY IRB)
Drexel University College of Medicine	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
Magee-Women's Hospital	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
PRISMA Health Upstate	Health Sciences South Carolina, IRB
Baylor Research Institute	Baylor Research Institute, IRB
Willowbend Health and Wellness	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB
Eastern Virginia Medical School	Eastern Virginia Medical School, IRB
Virginia Mason Medical Center	Western Institutional Review Board, IRB

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