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MEDAL

Can magnetic resonance imaging scan replace or triage the use of laparoscopy in establishing a diagnosis amongst women presenting in secondary care with chronic pelvic pain?

Aim:

The proportion of women for whom MRI is sufficiently accurate to replace laparoscopy following evaluation of presenting characteristics. This will be completed by ascertaining if the “post-laparoscopy diagnoses” has added any clinical benefit to the “post MRI diagnoses” (i.e. whether it has diagnosed substantially more pathological conditions) or whether it could have been avoided.

Secondary aims:

1. To compare the diagnostic accuracy of the post-MRI diagnoses and the post-laparoscopy diagnoses for the main pathological causes of CPP
2. To determine the added value of laparoscopy over MRI and both tests over information collected at baseline (history/initial examination/ultrasound)
3. To compare the certainty of the post-MRI diagnoses and the post-laparoscopy diagnoses
4. Estimate the proportion of women for whom a diagnostic and/or therapeutic laparoscopy is indicated
5. To determine, using multiple logistic regression, the presenting characteristics which identify the subgroups who would benefit most from MRI and conversely, those who would not benefit
6. To perform a decision-analytic model based economic evaluation determining the cost-effectiveness of MRI in reducing the need for laparoscopy

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