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Abdominal and vaginal hysterectomies on decline since 2003, as women choose laparoscopic and robotic surgeries, according to HysterSisters

More surgical options are increasing women's needs for information and support before and after hysterectomy, one of the most frequent major surgeries for women in the United States

Dallas – June 29, 2009 – Thousands of women at HysterSisters.com, the Internet's first and largest online community providing woman-to-woman support for hysterectomy, report they're choosing laparoscopic and robot-assisted hysterectomies instead of traditional abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy procedures. Since 2003, total and partial abdominal hysterectomies among its registered members have declined 12 percent, total vaginal hysterectomies have declined eight percent, while robot-assisted laparoscopic surgeries have increased more than 18 percent.

This news is the first time HysterSisters.com has released hysterectomy data based on member registrations. The trend was observed from data provided by more than 75,000 registered users at HysterSisters.com from 2003 - 2008.

Hysterectomy is the second most frequent major surgical procedure among reproductive-aged women, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"The trend toward less-invasive procedures represents more than just the evolution of medical technology," says Kathy Kelley, HysterSisters.com founder and CEO. "It's also about more doctor training and education, and increased information available to women."

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that 600,000 hysterectomies are performed in the United States each year. Based on 2007 data from Solucient Data, 62 percent of these are non-laparoscopic surgeries, i.e. total abdominal or vaginal hysterectomies. Data from the greater DFW metro area shows that 64 percent of women in the area are opting for abdominal hysterectomies. This is only slightly higher than the national average. Looking closer at the Dallas region, that number goes up to 76 percent when looking at women undergoing abdominal, "open" hysterectomies.

"For 10 years, HysterSisters.com has been an important source of information and support to tens of thousands of women who've had to contemplate or undergo a hysterectomy," says Kelley. "Women have more access to information and more choices than ever before. Hystersisters.com is here to give them all the information they need to make the best decision for their overall health and lifestyle."

About HysterSisters

HysterSisters is an online community providing woman-to-woman support for GYN medical and emotional issues surrounding the hysterectomy experience. Founded in 1998, it attracts over 9,000 unique visitors each day and has more than 160,000 registered members. HysterSisters enables women to find and share information about hysterectomy procedures, alternative treatments, hormone replacement therapy, and offer support through their personal experiences with gynecological illnesses. Learn more at www.hystersisters.com.

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