

About: Story Archives - January 1, 2003-December 31, 2003

Dec 5 - DFM's Family Medicine Residency/Student Elective trip to Honduras

Faculty from the Department of Family Medicine traveled to Honduras during the week of October 19-26, 2003 to continue the consultation process to establish that nation's first Family Medicine Residency program as well as a Student Elective.

Departmental members included Douglas B. McKeag, MD, MS; Gaylen M. Kelton, MD; and Javier F. Sevilla Martir, MD. Three Indiana University School of Medicine students also traveled to Honduras—Kevin McGarvey, Fourth Year Medical Student; Juliana Meyer, Third Year Medical Student; and Heather McKeag, Second Year Medical Student. The goal was to set the basis for an International Medicine Elective Rotation with active participation by medical students. Drs. McKeag, Kelton, and Sevilla provided clinical work alongside the medical students through four different rural villages, Camalotales, Pimienta, La Angostura and Las Lajas (the largest village) in central Honduras. This included providing medical care for pediatric, adult, and geriatric patients as well as performing physical exams for students at the school of the largest village.

Dr. Sevilla is originally from Honduras where he completed medical school in 1992. Previous to coming to the United States, Dr. Sevilla practiced medicine in Honduras as a general practitioner for four years. This included a year of work with an ambulatory clinic, providing care for the Lenca tribes in the mountains of Honduras. Dr. Kelton had last been in Honduras 18 years ago and marveled at how many of the urban areas had become very modern and mimicked western culture. However, he found that the rural areas in many ways had not changed and were just as needy for our care as they were 18 years ago. "This will be an excellent opportunity for the Indiana University School of Medicine to aid the underserved of Honduras, as well as give our many constituents (students, residents and faculty) an opportunity to experience the culture while providing care in an underserved setting."

The Family Medicine consultation process had been started by Drs. McKeag, Sevilla, and Richard D. Kiovsky, MD in March 2002 when they introduced the concept, philosophy and model of family medicine care to the Honduran government, and to academic and medical authorities. During this last visit, Drs. McKeag, Kelton, and Sevilla met with the Surgeon General of Honduras, Dr. Vargas, who expressed interest in the establishment of the Family Medicine Residency program and issued a letter of support. The Department of Family Medicine is now actively pursuing funding opportunities to develop this project that will enhance learning, research, and outreach opportunities for our medical school. Additionally, an agreement to collaborate with Pediatrics on faculty development in Honduras was reached, and relationships with rural clinics in other parts of Honduras for both residency and medical student learning were established. Finally, medical student involvement established the groundwork for an international medicine experience for medical students (from IUSM and elsewhere) to proceed.

For more information and/or questions, please email iufammed@iupui.edu.

Nov 25 - Clinicians Need to Put Heads Together on Sports Concussions

INDIANAPOLIS – It is repeated on gridirons across the country every fall: A football player smashes into an opponent, the whistle blows and the athlete shakily walks off the field and is immediately examined by the medical staff, who ask the player to respond to their questions.

Sports-related concussions, often referred to by clinicians as mild traumatic brain injury (TBI), occur thousands of times each year on athletic fields and courts. While many such injuries are dealt with correctly and rapidly, sports medicine clinicians and researchers need greater collaboration to more effectively evaluate and treat such injuries, says Douglas B. McKeag, M.D., M.S., OneAmerica Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine, in an editorial appearing in the November 19th issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"First, any athlete with a concussion must be removed from competition," says Dr. McKeag, who directs the IU Center for Sports Medicine, adding more recommendations:

- No athlete should return to play or practice until he or she is completely asymptomatic at rest and with exertion.
- Any athlete with prolonged loss of consciousness or evidence of amnesia should not return to play that day.
- Careful and repeated assessments by individuals with training and experience in evaluating concussive injuries should be the rule.
- Any patient with a concussion whose symptoms evolve downward requires immediate neurologic evaluation and possible hospital admission."

Dr. McKeag's editorial was a commentary to articles in the same issue reporting on studies conducted on collegiate athletes and data from the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Injury Surveillance System. One article evaluated the effects of concussion and the time to recovery following injury among collegiate football players. The other article examined the association between history of previous concussions and the likelihood of experiencing recurrent concussions.

"Concussion management has been a particularly vexing issue, dominated more by opinion than by evidence," Dr. McKeag notes, adding, "While these two studies might not surprise sports clinicians because the results are generally consistent with current experience in concussion management, these reports add to the understanding of the natural history of TBI. In an evidence-based environment, this is an extremely important initial step."

Collegiate football players may need up to seven days to recover from a concussion, including full recovery of cognitive function and balance, one of the articles reported.

"Now is the time to consider sports-induced mild TBI differently," Dr. McKeag says.

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Nov 20 - Dr. McKeag Lead Delegate to Vietnam and Thailand

Douglas B. McKeag, M.D., M.S., OneAmerica Professor; Chairman, Department of Family Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine; and Director, IU Center for Sports Medicine, traveled to Vietnam and Thailand, November 10-15, 2003 as the leader of the "People to People Ambassador Sports Medicine Delegation. This delegation was founded by President Eisenhower in 1956 and has developed high level professional exchanges to encourage dialogue with counterparts in other nations. Dr. McKeag presented the following: Anti-Inflammatory Supplements, Concussions/MTBI's, Eating Disorders, Ethical Considerations of Injections, The Female Athlete, Osteoarthritis and Exercise, and the Wilderness of Sports Ethics.

Stops in Hanoi included the Rehab hospital, Olympic Center as well as the war museum. In Ho Chi Mihn City [Saigon], visited and presented at the Trauma Hospital (a traditional medicine hospital), while also visiting War museums and Viet Cong underground tunnels and hospitals. This was first such group of physicians to enter Vietnam on such a trip since relations normalized.

Nov 7 - Sunday Spong Elected President of Indiana Medical Group Management Association

Sunday Spong, M.B.A, C.M.P.E., Financial Director, was elected president of Indiana Medical Group Management Association (IMGMA) for 2004. Her term is October 2003 to October 2004. Sunday has represented IMGMA as a board member for one year and as secretary for two years before being elected as vice-president in 2002, then president-elect in 2003.

According to Ms. Spong, "the year as president-elect is the most challenging, because it includes the responsibility of planning the educational conferences. I am looking forward to my year as president, as I will have more time to network with other members, mentor new members, and further develop our board."

IMGMA is a state affiliate of the national Medical Group Management Association. We share a common mission, educating group practice managers and administrators to better serve their groups and their patients.

Sep 22 - 7th Annual ALSO Course

The ALSO Course was sponsored by the Indiana University Family Practice Residency and the Indiana University Department of Family Medicine.

Under the direction of course director, Sharree Grannis, M.D. and advisory faculty, Gaylen Kelton, M.D., three additional certified ALSO instructors along with four other faculty taught the course.

Over 20 participants attended didactic presentations and hands-on workshops dealing with maternity care urgencies, emergencies and procedural skills. The entire freshman class of residents from the IU Methodist Family Medicine Residency was in attendance.

This was the first time several nurse midwives from Methodist hospital had attended the program. One other Indiana family practice residency was represented both at the faculty and participant level.

This was the first ever collaboration with Indiana University Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology with both an intern and an instructor participating.

Sep 22 - "Entry of US Medical School Graduates Into Family Practice Residencies: 2002-2003 and 3 Year Summary" article

Significant numbers of our students are still choosing family medicine as a career, Table 2 says that in 2002 Indiana graduated the highest total number of students from any senior class who entered family medicine (45),

Despite the recent national downturn in interest, Indiana ranked 28 out of 124 schools in average of three years of percentage (15%) of students choosing family medicine for their residency training.

Another interesting tidbit, Indiana has the highest percentage of students choosing in-state residencies in Family Medicine (77.8%)

Sep 22 - Dr. Allen Attends Unveiling Ceremony for Dan Quayle

Deborah Allen, M.D., Otis Bowen Professor and Director, Bowen Research Center, attended the unveiling ceremony in the U.S. Capitol of the marble bust of former Vice President James Danforth Quayle Wednesday, September 10, 2003. Dr. Allen, who was Mr. Quayle's family physician, received a special invitation to the long-awaited unveiling.

The unveiling ceremony was held in the Rotunda at the United States Capitol. The ceremony included introductory remarks by the Honorable Trent Lott, Chairman, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration; the Honorable Christopher J. Dodd, Ranking Democratic Member, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration; the Honorable George Bush, 41st President of the United States, and the Honorable Dick Cheney, Vice President of the United States.

Distinguished guests included the Honorable Ted Stevens, President Pro Tempore of the Senate; the Honorable William H. Frist, M.D., Majority Leader of the Senate; the Honorable Tom Dashle, Democratic Leader of the Senate; and the Honorable Tom DeLay, Majority Leader of the House.

Dr. Allen served as Mr. Quayle's family physician in 1994 when he was hospitalized for a pulmonary embolism.

Sep 2 - Dr. Renshaw Joins Department in Faculty Development Leadership in Underserved Medicine Program

Scott Earl Renshaw, M.D., has joined the faculty of the Department of Family Medicine. A native of the Evansville, Indiana area, he is a graduate of Indiana University School of

Medicine and the IU Family Medicine Residency, where he was chief resident.

For the year 2003-4 will he be participating in the Faculty Development Program in Underserved Medicine Leadership (HRSA faculty development grant, 1-D14-HP-00164-01, Kathy A. Zoppi, P.I.). The program is designed to place physician faculty in designated medically underserved settings, and to provide them with training in teaching, research, policy, and advocacy.

As part of his year-long program, he is providing care at a HealthNet clinics, Martindale-Brightwood, at 34th and Keystone. Health Net has several clinics around the city where they provide health care with an open access policy for the neighborhoods where they are located. Dr. Renshaw will be conducting a clinical research project on mental health and primary care counseling during the year, as part of the program activities. Dr. Renshaw is recognized as an excellent teacher, and will be working with students and residents throughout the year.

Aug 20 - Dr. Nalin Named AFPRD President-Elect

Peter Nalin, M.D., Associate Professor and Residency Director, has been voted President Elect for the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFPRD) during the AFPRD's Annual Meeting.

The Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFPRD) is dedicated to promoting excellence in family practice graduate education in order to meet the health care needs of the American public. The AFPRD goals are to:

- represent family practice residency program directors at a national level and provide a political voice for them in appropriate arenas.
- develop the art and science of resident education in family practice
- improve the quality of education of family physicians
- promote the ethical behavior in all aspects of residency operation
- promote communication and cooperation between family practice residency programs and other members of the family medicine family
- provide a network for mutual assistance among family practice residency directors
- enhance the administrative operation of family practice residencies

Aug 20 - "Lifestyle Changes can Loosen Chains for Hoosiers with Arthritis" press release

INDIANAPOLIS – More than a third of Indiana's population has arthritis, the inflammation of joints. It's estimated that 1.7 million Hoosiers get that jolting reminder when they roll out of bed, climb stairs, write a letter or get out of a chair.

Arthritis is not a single disease. It is a term for more than 100 conditions that involve the joints and surrounding tissues. Arthritis is one of the leading causes of disability among Americans, and a new state initiative is addressing the problem. Though the common image of someone with arthritis is an elderly person, 70 percent of state residents with arthritis are working age (18 to 64 years).

The Indiana Arthritis Initiative (IAI), launched by the Indiana State Department of Health and coordinated through its Chronic Disease Division, seeks to boost awareness and education among people with arthritis and groups at high risk of developing it, including medically underserved populations. Their message is that people can take action to reduce arthritis-related pain and loss of function. Another goal is to strengthen and support clinical practices of health-care providers serving patients with arthritis.

“There are ways to combat arthritis and reduce its debilitating effects,” says State Health Commissioner Greg A. Wilson, M.D. “Low-impact physical activity like walking or swimming can improve mobility and reduce pain for people with arthritis. Maintaining an ideal body weight can also reduce the risk of developing certain forms of arthritis.”

Initiative members recently completed The Indiana Arthritis Strategic Action Plan, a work plan for improving arthritis awareness and management in Indiana, and the report, Arthritis and Indiana: Our State’s Burden, detailing demographics of who has arthritis, the many ways arthritis affects quality of life for individuals and families, and the economic problems associated with the disease.

IAI steering committee members include several faculty members of the Indiana University School of Medicine: committee chair Douglas B. McKeag, M.D., chairman of the Department of Family Medicine; Greg Steele, Ph.D., associate professor; Department of Public Health; Rose Fife, M.D., associate dean for research and director of the IU Center for Excellence in Women’s Health; and Javier F. Sevilla Martir, M.D., assistant professor of clinical family medicine. William S. Quillen, Ph.D., director of the physical therapy program at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis also serves on the committee.

“The actions to manage and prevent arthritis also are beneficial in preventing and controlling chronic diseases like heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes,” says Dr. McKeag. “Many of these lifestyle changes could be initiated at home.”

Representatives from the Arthritis Foundation, AARP, Family and Social Services Administration, Purdue University Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, and other organizations serving people affected by arthritis are also involved in IAI.

The Indiana Arthritis Strategic Action Plan is posted on the State Department of Health Web site at www.in.gov/isdh. Click on the Plan graphic. *Arthritis and Indiana: Our State’s Burden* is posted on the web site under “Data and Statistics.”

Aug 7 - Family Medicine Scholars Consortium

The Family Medicine Scholars Consortium Program is coordinated by the Department of Family Medicine in conjunction with Cinergy Foundation, Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Indiana Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (IAFP/F), Midwest Center for Rural Health (MCRH), Union Hospital and Vectren Corporation. The goal of the program is to offer quality summer Family Medicine training opportunities to first-year medical students attending the Indiana University School of Medicine. "Building on Textbook Lessons: Med Students Job-shadow Doctors in Family Practice", featured in South Bend Tribune by staff writer, David Rumbach.

Jul 27 - Dr. Zoppi Nominated to Attend National Seminar

Kathy A. Zoppi, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor of Clinical Family Medicine and Director of Fellowship Program, was nominated and selected by the Indiana University School of Medicine's Dean's Office to attend the AAMC Mid-Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar. The Seminar was held July 19-22, 2003, at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC.

Dr. Zoppi was nominated, along with Dr. Alison Brasher in Neurology, to appear as representatives of Indiana University. The seminar is a three day meeting of women leaders from medical schools across the country, focusing on career and professional development in academic medical centers. The topics of the seminars included sessions about health care leadership and policy, finance, career planning and conflict resolution.

Jun 30 - Dr. Bogdewic IU School of Medicine, Faculty President

Stephen Bogdewic Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair of Academic Affairs in the Department of Family Medicine, assumes duties as President of the Indiana University School of Medicine Faculty, effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

According to past-President Dr. Maureen Harrington, Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Associate Director Basic Science Research, Indiana University Cancer Center, the President communicates to the Dean the thoughts of faculty members and is the "go to" person when groups/individuals have ideas for the faculty and/or the school. The President also conducts the biannual fall and spring faculty meetings.

As the faculty continues to grow, communication between the faculty and the administration becomes increasingly important. Dr. Bogdewic will facilitate this through chairmanship of the Steering Committee, which meets once a month. The goal of the Steering Committee is to serve as a forum for exchange of information between the faculty and the administration. This committee is made up of faculty-elected members from each of the IUSM standing committees.

These representatives report actions of their respective committees at faculty meetings and supply written annual reports to each member of the faculty. The standing committees were designed to address the three major missions of the IUSM: teaching, research and service.

As President of the Faculty, Dr. Bogdewic will also appoint the Nominations Committee, which oversees faculty elections and appointments to the IUPUI Faculty Council, of which he is a representative. He will also appoint temporary committees as necessary and designate faculty members to fill any vacancies that might arise in faculty-elected positions.

Jun 5 - Dr. Mercy Obeime 2003 Spirit Award Winner

Mercy Obeime, M.D., Medical Director, St. Francis Neighborhood Health Center--Garfield Park, Indianapolis, Indiana, was chosen as the National Winner of the 2003 Spirit of Women Award in the Healthcare Provider-At-Large category.

Dr. Obeime was recognized at the national awards celebration in Baltimore on May 25, 2003 for her dedication and commitment to the uninsured and under-insured residents of Indianapolis. Dr. Obeime's persistence in seeking funding enables the health center to treat patients regardless of their ability to pay.

Dr. Obeime was selected as the regional Health Care Award winner last fall. She was chosen among the other regional award winners for the national designation. Dr. Obeime and the national winners in the Community and Youth categories were featured on NBC's "Today Show".

The Spirit of Women awards honor ordinary women who do extraordinary things. Spirit of Women is a national network of leading hospitals dedicated to improving women's lives with innovative health and community programs. St. Francis Hospital & Health Centers is the exclusive Spirit of Women health system in central Indiana.

Dr. Obeime is a 1996 graduate of the IU Family Practice Residency Program and a volunteer faculty with the Department of Family Medicine.

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May 27 - Dr. McKeag Honored with ACSSM "Citation Award"

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Douglas B. McKeag, M.D., M.S., OneAmerica Professor; Chairman, Department of Family Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine; and Director, IU Center for Sports Medicine, will be presented the "Citation Award" by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) in San Francisco at their 50th Annual Meeting, May 28-31, 2003.

The ACSM Board of Trustees annually pays tribute to those individuals who display exceptional performance, service and achievement in the fields of sports medicine and exercise science. The ACSM recognizes these professionals annually by bestowing the "Honor and Citation Awards." The Honor Award is ACSM's highest award for lifetime achievement in sports medicine and exercise science, while the Citation award is the second highest award presented.

The Citation Award of the American College of Sports Medicine is granted to an individual or group who has made significant and important contributions to sports medicine and/or the exercise sciences. These contributions may include, but are not limited to, research and scholarship; clinical care; and/or administrative or educational services in sports medicine or exercise science. ACSM membership is not a requirement for this award.

Dr. McKeag was awarded this "...in recognition of his pioneering achievements in defining, practicing, teaching, organizing, and bringing to universal recognition the discipline of primary-care sports medicine in the United States."

May 19 - Dr. J. Scott Ries Part of New WTHR HealthTeam 13

J. Scott Ries, M.D., has been selected to be a part of WTHR Channel 13's (Indianapolis) new HealthTeam 13. A segment featuring Dr. Ries was on the 5 o'clock news, Friday, May 16, 2003. For more information please go to WTHR's website at www.wthr.com and click on "HEALTH." Dr. Ries joins Kurt Patterson, M.D. who is also a part of the HealthTeam 13.

The upcoming calendar is as follows:

- June 25--Dr. J. Scott Ries
- July 9--Dr. Kurt Patterson
- July 30--Dr. J. Scott Ries
- August 13--Dr. Kurt Patterson

May 12 - Dr. Ferguson Honored with Trustees Teaching Award

Philip C. Feguson, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Family Medicine and GYN Coordinator was honored as one of the recipient's of the 2003 Trustees Teaching Award.

The Trustees Teaching award emphasizes an excellence in teaching can be documented through the use of teaching strategies that:

- Are based on sound pedagogical and content knowledge
- Engage students through collaborative learning, service learning, or other active learning methods appropriate to the context
- Provide students with timely feedback and assessment
- Encourage critical thinking
- Provide appropriate challenge
- Employ technology effectively
- Promote diverse perspectives
- Display general characteristics of effective teaching such as organization, clarity, fairness, enthusiasm, creativity, and flexibility.

Dr. Ferguson was honored due to his efforts in being the Site Director for the Jr. Clerkship program.

Also honored from the Indiana University School of Medicine were Patrick Bankston, Jerry Bergstein, Dana Brock, Kenneth Buckwalter, Anthony Casale, Mary Ciccarelli, Thomas Davis, Joseph DiMicco, Taihung (Peter) Duong, John Emhardt, Scott Engum, Margaret Gaffney, Robert Goulet, Irmira Gradus-Pizlo, Richard Gunderman, Mitchell Harris, Debra Helper, Roger Hoversland, Patricia Keener, Kurt Kroenke, Bruce Martin, Christopher McDougale, Edward McKee, Jean Molleston, Robert Pascuzzi, Timothy Pettigrew, J. Howard Pratt, Lawrence Quilliam, Dale Saxon, Mark Seifert, Ronald Shew, Robert Tarver, Virginia Thurston, Patricia Treadwell, Frederick Unverzagt, Elisabeth von der Lohe, John Watkins, Joanne Wojcieszek, Karen Wolf, Donald Wong, and Chi-Wah (Rudy) Yun.

Apr 15 - First Spanish Smoking Cessation Training Workshop for Medical Students Held

The Society of Latino Medical Students (SOL) at the Indiana University School of Medicine and the Department of Family Medicine made possible the first Indianapolis training program for smoking cessation in the Spanish language. This workshop was held on Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22.

Doctor Oscar Claros, a fellow of the National Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention (LCAT) who has participated in the development of a culturally appropriate smoking cessation program for Hispanic/Latinos, was sponsored by the Department of Family Medicine (Javier F. Sevilla Martir, M.D.) and the State Department of Health, with collaboration of the Indiana Latino Institute, to provide a two days training program "Un Despertar Saludable" (A Healthy Awakening).

This initiative was taken by the SOL as a response to the identified need for smoking cessation programs in Spanish that were not available, deciding to pursue training to be able to provide this service as a community outreach program and to offer a culturally appropriate program. The event was seen as a success and as a most needed step in providing care for the Hispanic/Latino community. Twenty trainees from around the state were present, including SOL members, individuals from the Indiana Latino institute, Minority Health Coalition, Health Net, and the Department of Family Medicine.

The next step as seen by the SOL members, is to scheduled the first four weeks program to provide service to the awaiting list of patients. Once the dates are determined, referral and scheduling will be offered by the Indiana Latino Institute.

Apr 3 - Drs. Honored at Sixth Annual Women’s History Month Leadership Reception

Brenda O'Hara, M.D., and Kathy Zoppi, Ph.D., were honored at the Sixth Annual Women’s History Month Leadership Reception. As part of Women’s History Month, The Student Life and Diversity Office and the Office for Women are co-sponsored the event on March 31, 2003.

IUPUI students, faculty and staff were invited to nominate female faculty and staff who demonstrate a commitment to teaching and/or service to others, and are role models for students, faculty and staff. The Women's History Month Recognition Committee recognized all of the faculty and staff nominees; additionally, both a staff and faculty honoree were selected by the committee to present a brief keynote address during the reception that speaks to the theme of Women's History Month, "The World of Women's History: Body, Mind, and Spirit.

Feb 6 - Dr. Gaylen Kelton Invited to Health & Human Services Conference

Gaylen Kelton, M.D., was invited by the deputy secretary of Health and Human Services to participate at the Feb. 5 conference in Washington on adolescent risk avoidance.

The conference focused on health risk behaviors relating to alcohol, drugs, sexual activity, tobacco and violence. It explored risk avoidance approaches to prevention. Dr. Kelton participated on a moderated panel that discussed risk avoidance programs that emphasized sexual abstinence.

Jan 21 - Dr. J. Scott Ries Pap Study Gleans National Attention

A study by J. Scott Ries, M.D., has gained national attention. His study, "Can lubricant from a vaginal speculum be identified on a pap smear?" has been referenced in [Obstetrics and Gynecology](#), November 2002 (Volume 100, Number 5) and referenced on WebMD; posted on MedScape; and cited in an article on eFamily Practice News.

ABSTRACT

"Can lubricant from a vaginal speculum be identified on a pap smear?"

Objective:

It is widely taught that use of a lubricant on a vaginal speculum may interfere with the Pap smear. However, careful examination of the literature fails to reveal objective evidence to support this teaching. This pilot study was designed to determine whether water soluble gel applied to a vaginal speculum when obtaining a Pap smear is detectable upon cytologic examination.

Design:

A prospective randomized, controlled trial.

Setting: A Residency-based Family Practice Center (FPC) in Indiana

Patients:

Women presenting for routine Pap smear were invited to participate if they were >18, had not undergone hysterectomy, and were not currently pregnant or menstruating. Participating subjects were randomly assigned to receive either a lubricated (n=25) or non-lubricated (n=25) vaginal speculum during the examination.

Intervention: Cytologic evaluation of Pap smears obtained using either a nonlubricated vaginal speculum (control), or a vaginal speculum coated with a water soluble lubricant (*PD/a Sterile Lubricating Jelly*).

Main Outcome Measures:

Each pap smear was independently evaluated by 4 senior level cytotechnologists blinded to whether obtained with a control or a lubricated speculum. Two of the four cytotechnologists were provided samples of lubricant fixed onto a slide for comparison purposes. Each cytotechnologist reported for each slide: 1) Is there evidence of lubricant on this slide; and 2) If present, does the lubricant interfere with your ability to interpret the slide?

Results:

Overall, cytotechnologists reported lubricant as "present" in 40% of the slide readings (81/200, p = 0.786). However, the reports of lube "present" were as likely to occur on smears obtained with non-lubricated (control) speculums as they were with lubricated speculums (39/81 vs. 42/81 respectively, p = 0.773). Having comparison slides of lube fixed upon a slide did not improve the likelihood of reporting lubricant as present on a control versus lubricated speculum smear (p = 0.156). When reported as lubricant present, "interference" was reported in 23% of the readings (19/81) . However, reports of "interference" were also as likely to occur with smears obtained using a non-lubricated speculum as with lubricated methods (p = 0.1285).

Conclusion: Lubricant applied to a vaginal speculum cannot be reliably detected on a pap smear. While further study needs to be done to investigate any potential effect of lubrication on diagnosis categorization, initial evidence does not support the dogma of lubrication interfering with the ability to interpret the slide.

For more information about this study, please email iufammed@iupui.edu.