

Referral Patterns and Patient Characteristics of Men Undergoing Fertility Evaluation: Where Do Our Patients Come From?

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Background and Methods

Background:

- Male factor infertility is common and linked to worsened sexual health, mental health and several general medical conditions
- Up to 27% of men do not undergo appropriate fertility evaluation

Methods:

- Retrospective review of all men presenting for initial male fertility consultation at tertiary care hospital, 2002-2018 (N=4041)
- Examine differences in patient demographics, hormone levels and semen parameters across referral sources

Results

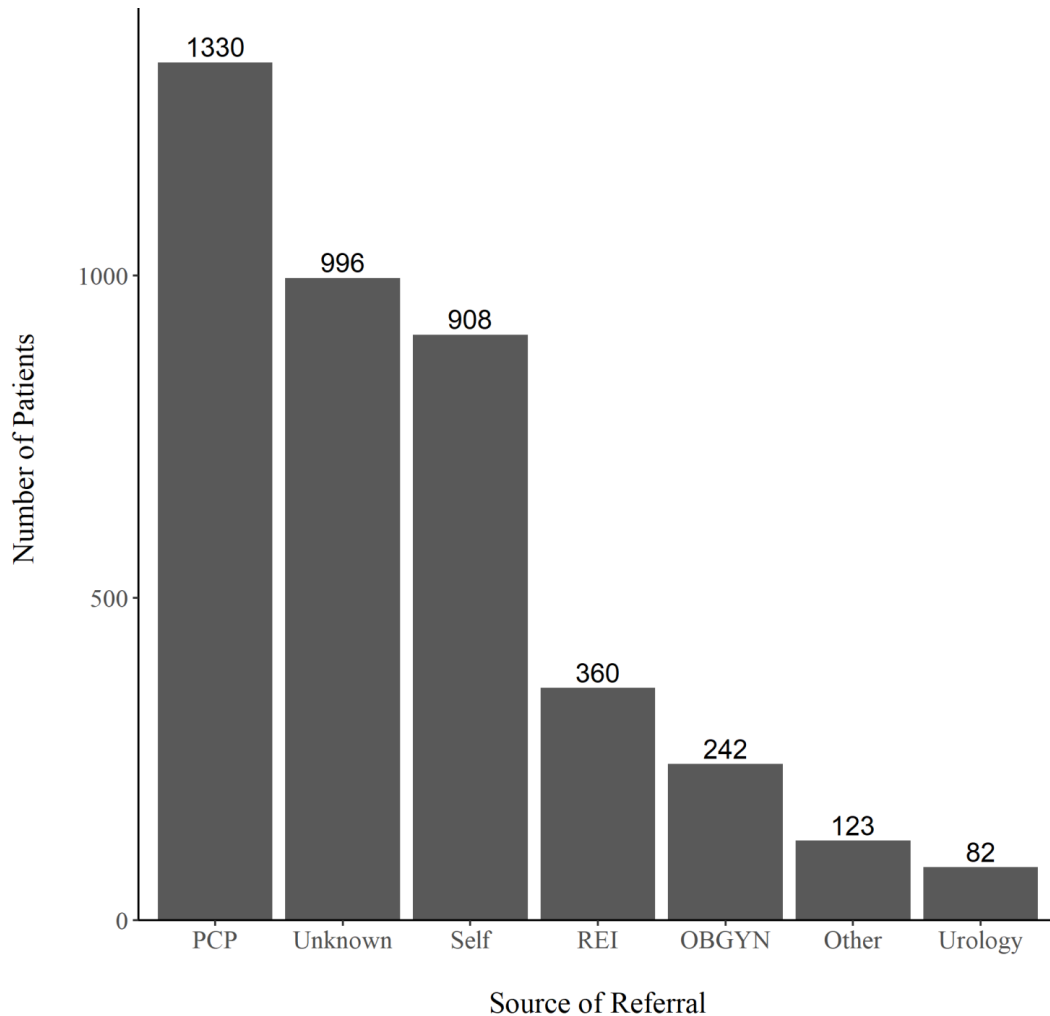


Figure 1: Self-reported source of referral for primary male infertility evaluation

- Self-referral and primary care physician (PCP) were the most common referral source
- Oligospermic patients were most likely referred by reproductive endocrinology (REI)
- REI-referred patients had lowest total motile sperm counts
 - Controlling for age, race, prolactin, FSH, LH, testosterone
- REI may have more restrictive criteria for referral which could be a target for collaboration to improve access