

# Comparing Colectomy Outcomes Between Males and Females in a Veteran Population

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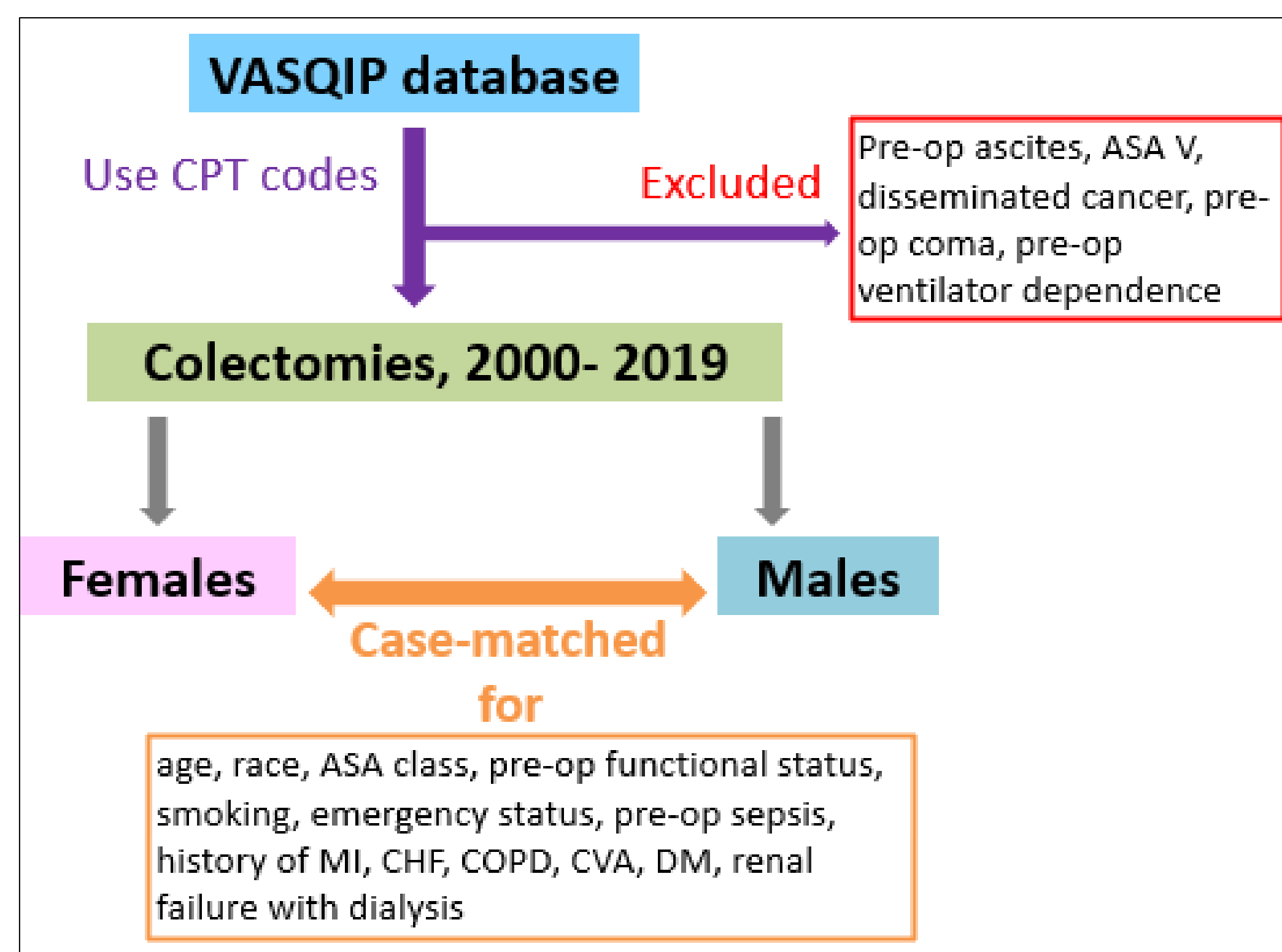
## Background

- Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) is the largest integrated health system in the US
- VA patients have higher rates of comorbidity and complications
- VASQIP: Veteran Affairs Surgical Quality Improvement Program
- VA treats 9 million patients annually but only **7.5%** of VA patients are **female**

## Study Aim

- Examine the impact of gender on colectomy outcomes in veterans

## Methods



- Primary outcome: all-cause 30-day mortality
- Secondary outcomes: post-op complications, length of post-op hospital stay
- Statistical analysis: independent sample t-tests, Fischer Exact Tests, or Chi Square tests

## Results

- 40,231 colectomies → 1357 case-matched pairs

	Overall Population (n=2714)	Female (n=1357)	Male (n=1357)	P value
Death within 30 days	25 (0.9%)	11 (0.8%)	14 (1.0%)	.689
1 or more VASQIP Complication	528 (19.5%)	223 (16.4%)	305 (22.5%)	< .001
Post-op Hospital Length of stay (days)	8.08 ± 8.71	7.20 ± 5.99	8.96 ± 10.91	< .001
Return to OR within 30 days	199 (7.3%)	74 (5.5%)	125 (9.2%)	< .001
Failure to wean from ventilator within 48 hours	58 (2.1%)	19 (1.4%)	39 (2.9%)	.011
Acute renal failure requiring dialysis	8 (0.3%)	1 (0.1%)	7 (0.5%)	.039
Wound disruption/dehiscence	62 (2.3%)	17 (1.3%)	45 (3.3%)	< .001
Superficial surgical site infection	183 (6.7%)	65 (4.8%)	118 (8.7%)	< .001
Deep wound surgical site infection	39 (1.4%)	12 (0.9%)	27 (2.0%)	.023

**Table 1:** Post-operative outcomes following colectomy by gender

- There was no significant difference in 30-day mortality

## Conclusions

- Females had lower complication rates following colectomy compared to males
- Despite being a minority, female patients can be safely treated at the VA

## Limitations

- Retrospective study
- We did not case-match for procedure modality (open vs. minimally invasive) or indication
- Few post-operative complications examined
- VASQIP only captures data for 30 days post-op

## References

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