Commentary: The effect of preoperative phenazopyridine on short-term urinary retention following urogynecologic surgery

Alexandra Dubinskaya¹

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Postoperative urinary retention is one of the most common postoperative issues after urogynecologic procedures. Multiple techniques and approaches have been tried to prevent urinary retention. Preoperative administration of phenazopyridine is one of them. Phenazopyridine has two main effects: color staining and analgesic. The color staining effect is usually used to aid the visualization of the ureters during intraoperative cystoscopy. The analgesic effect is often used for symptom relief of UTI and interstitial cystitis and is also believed to help with postoperative pain, thus positively affecting the ability to void. This retrospective study investigated the effect of phenazopyridine on the prevention of short-term postoperative urinary retention.

Charts from prior prospective study of postoperative urinary retention were reviewed retrospectively. The goal was to determine whether patients who received preoperative

phenazopyridine, administered per provider preferences with the purpose of better visualization of the ureters, had greater success in passing postoperative standardized voiding trials. Although this study was underpowered and included patients of only two surgeons, no statistically significant differences were found between the two groups ($p = 0.37$).

This study aimed to determine the effect of phenazopyridine on postoperative urinary retention. Despite helping with visualization of the ureters during cystoscopy, it does not contribute to the success of the voiding trial.

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✉ Alexandra Dubinskaya
a.dubinsky.md@gmail.com

¹ Department of Urology, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA