Gender Gap in Industry Payments to Urologists

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**Background:** The Open Payments Program (OPP) was established in 2013 under the Sunshine Act, which mandated that medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturers submit public records of any financial incentive given to physicians. The study aim is to characterize the gap in general and research payments between male and female urologists over the past 7 years.

**Methods:** The study sample included all urologists in the US who received at least one general (GP) or research payment from 2015 to 2021. In order to identify urologists’ genders, the OPP was matched with the National Provider Index dataset. Payments to male versus female urologists were analyzed by geography, year, payment type, subspecialty, and industry payer with nominal payments adjusted to the base year’s US dollar using the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U).

**Results:** 1,351,533 payments to 13,678 urologists were analyzed. Of them, 11,926 urologists were male, and 1,752 were female with an average general payment of $17,683.18 to male urologists compared to $5,825.09 to female urologists. Women not only received fewer consultant, royalty/license, speaker, and equity payments, but also received less per transaction in these categories.

**Conclusions:** This study is the first to characterize differences in both research and general payments between male and female urologists. Further studies are needed to understand and interpret the unequal relationships between male and female urologists with industry. Industry should actively work to equitably engage female urologists in consultancies, speaking engagements, and research.