

DIFFERENCES IN TIME TO TREATMENT FOR GALLBLADDER DISEASE IN MEN AND WOMEN

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INTRODUCTION

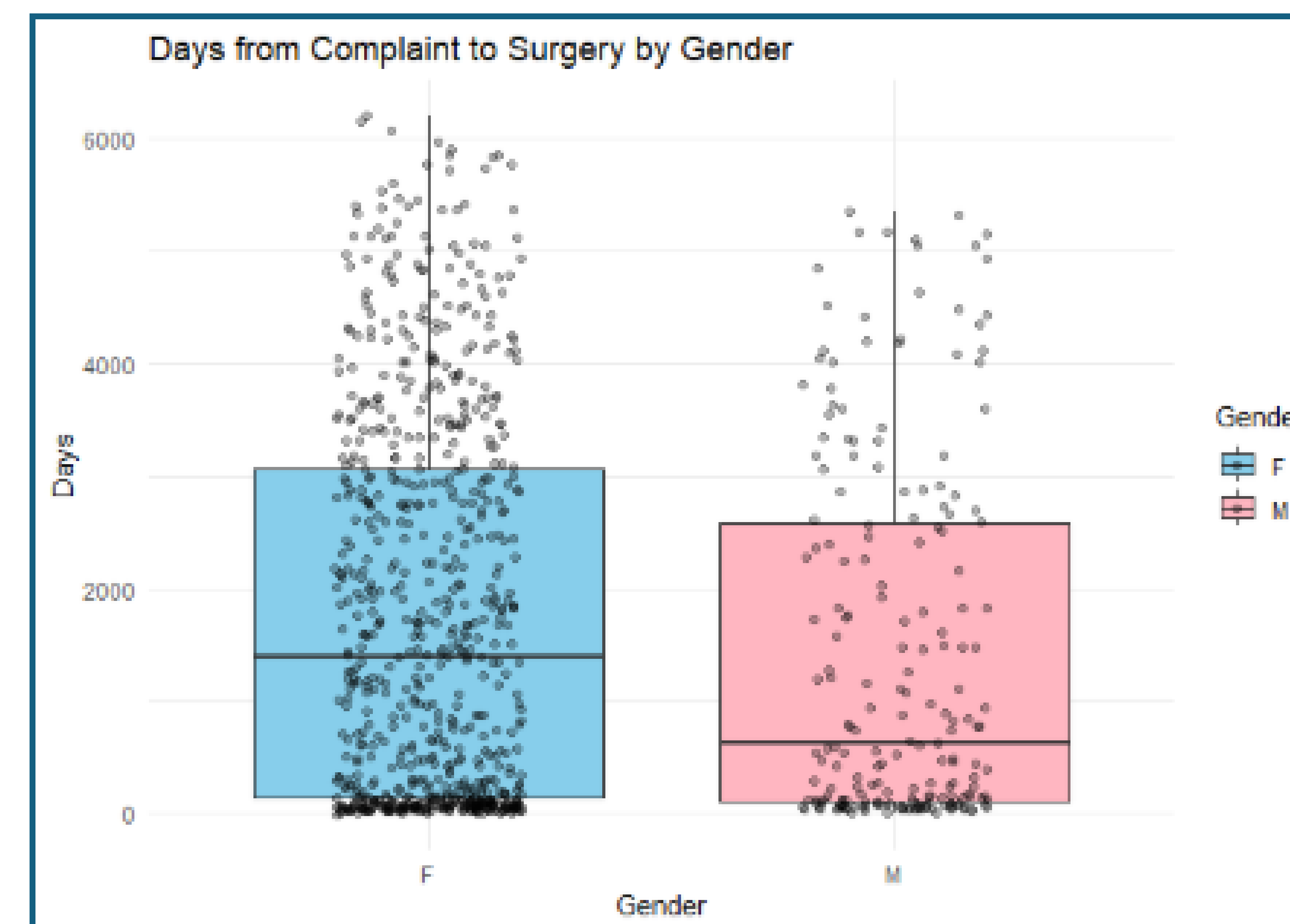
- Laparoscopic cholecystectomies in men are often longer, more complicated, with a higher rate of conversion to open
- Our team hypothesized that biases lead to faster diagnoses of biliary disease in women than men, ultimately leading to a delay in surgical intervention for men

METHODS

- IRB approval obtained to perform a retrospective analysis of cholecystectomies done at our rural tertiary care center
- Inclusion criteria: Patients over 18 who had elective laparoscopic, robotic, or open cholecystectomies in past 10 years
- Exclusion criteria: Acute cholecystitis, gallbladders removed for concern of a polyp, interval cholecystectomies after percutaneous drainage
- Variables examined: Gender, date of first presentation to either PCP or the ED with right upper quadrant, epigastric, or left upper quadrant pain, date of surgery

RESULTS

- 933 patients, 727 females (77.9%), 206 males (22.1%)
- Average number of days from first complaint to surgery: 1704 days (SD = 1690), median: 1190 days
- Males had an average of 1421 days (SD = 1599) to surgery with a median of 620 days
- Females had an average of 1785 days (SD = 1708) to surgery and a median of 1385 days
- A Mann–Whitney U test shows a statistically significant difference in the number of days from first complaint to surgery between males and females ($p = 0.009$)



CONCLUSIONS

- We found that women have a longer time to surgery than men. This was the opposite of our expectation
- The median number of days to surgery demonstrates that both men and women often complained of pain for over a year before it was addressed
- On chart review, many women's abdominal pain was initially attributed to gynecologic issues or IBS
- Additional analysis of the data collected including number of imaging tests performed, final pathology, length of stay and length of surgery is ongoing