Ob-gyn lags in placing women in department leadership

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(HealthDay)—Compared with other clinical specialties, obstetrics and gynecology is behind in progressing women to departmental leadership, according to research published in the March issue of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Lisa G. Hofler, M.D., M.P.H., of Harvard Medical School in Boston, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional observational study to examine the representation of women in department-based leadership for obstetrics and gynecology versus other clinical specialties. The gender of department-based leaders and residency program directors was researched on websites for 950 U.S. academic clinical departments.

The researchers found that women were significantly underrepresented as chairs (ratios, 0.60 or less; P < 0.02) for all specialties and as division directors for all specialties except anesthesiology (ratio, 1.13) and diagnostic radiology (ratio, 0.97). In obstetrics and gynecology, anesthesiology, general surgery, and...