

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 5, 2002

*UTERINE FIBROID AWARENESS SURVEY
FACT SHEET*

A national survey of women ages 18 to 64 was conducted in February 2002 by Opinion Research Corporation, Princeton, N.J., on behalf of the Society of Cardiovascular & Interventional Radiology, Fairfax, Va., to assess awareness levels and treatment patterns related to uterine fibroids. The survey has a margin of error of ± 3 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. Results reported in this fact sheet can be projected to all U.S. women ages 18 – 64 unless indicated otherwise.

- ✍ 66 percent (816) of 1,231 women contacted for the survey said they were familiar with a condition called uterine fibroids or fibroid tumors of the uterus. Familiarity increased with age: 18-24, 52 percent; 25-34, 57 percent; 35-44, 64%; 45-54, 78 percent; 55-64, 79 percent. 74 percent of the 151 African-American women surveyed said they were familiar with the condition.
- ✍ 62 percent of the 816 women who said they were familiar with uterine fibroids could correctly identify one or more of its symptoms: 32 percent, heavy, prolonged menstrual periods, sometimes with clots; 19 percent, pelvic pain and pressure; 19 percent, heavy cramping during periods; 10 percent, unusually painful periods; 7 percent, pain in the back and legs; 4 percent, flooding; 31 percent responded “don’t know.”
- ✍ 62 percent of the 816 women identified surgery or hysterectomy as the treatment for fibroids. Three percent identified myomectomy; 9 percent, hormones such as GnRH agonists, birth control pills or progestin; and 1 percent, uterine fibroid embolization or UFE.
- ✍ 71 percent of the 142 women with fibroids said they first went to a gynecologist for the problem; 19 percent went first to a general or family practitioner; 4 percent saw an internist; 3 percent said they did not seek treatment. (3 percent said “other” and 1 percent didn’t know). Among these women with fibroids, 49 percent did not seek treatment from any other physicians. When asked what other types of physicians they saw, 23 percent said they saw an OB/GYN, 6 percent saw a primary care physician, and 1 percent saw an interventional radiologist.
- ✍ 17 percent (142 women) of the women who said they were familiar with uterine fibroids said they have or have had uterine fibroids. Of the 435 women in the high

risk age group (35-54), 20 percent said they have or have had fibroids; 26 percent of the African-American women said they have the condition (Note: Sample is too small to project data to all African-American women).

- ✍ On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the most problematic, 43 percent of the women who have or have had uterine fibroids ranked having uterine fibroids a 5, 14 percent ranked them a 4; 17 percent a 3; 6 percent a 2; and 17 percent a 1. Thirty-nine percent said heavy, prolonged menstrual periods, sometimes with clots, was the greatest problem, followed by pelvic pain and pressure, 12 percent; and pain in the back and legs, 9 percent.