Post-Menopausal Bleeding and Endometrial Hyperplasia



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Aims and Objectives

- To understand the epidemiology and aetiology
- To be able to understand risk factors and identify women who need investigation
- To understand and organise investigation and diagnosis
- To understand the treatment options
- To be able to individualise treatment depending on circumstances

Introduction

- 1 in 2 people will suffer from cancer
- Uterine cancer is the 4th most common cancer in women in the UK
- Most common gynaecological cancer



Epidemiology of uterine cancer

- Effects 1 in 36 women in the UK
- Nearly 9,400 new cases per year
- 2,300 deaths per year
- 72% 10-year survival
- 34% of cases are deemed to be preventable
- Incidence is increasing
- 2/3 occur in women aged 55–75

Hyperplasia Classification

• Historical:

4 subdivisions Simple or Complex- with or without atypia

 Current: WHO Classification 2014 Hyperplasia without atypia Atypical Hyperplasia

Endometrial Hyperplasia without atypia (Benign Hyperplasia)



- Increased crowding of simple epithelium
- Gland:stroma >3:1
- Stroma still present between glandular BM

Endometrial Hyperplasia with atypia (Endometrial Intraepithelial Neoplasia)



- Prominent nuclear enlargement
- Cellular atypia
- Loss of polarity

Aetiology

- Age
 - Most common in postmenopausal women
 - Highest incidence in women aged 75-59
 - Just over 1% occurs in women under 40
- Oestrogen –endogenous and exogenous exposure
 - Any condition that causes a rise in oestrogen levels increases the risk
 - Oestrogen causes proliferation of the endometrium
- Obesity
 - Biggest preventable risk factor
 - 2.5x higher risk
 - Causes about 1/3 cases of endometrial cancer



Aetiology

- Menstrual history
- PCOS
- Genetic predisposition
- Previous cancer
- Tamoxifen
- Diabetes
- HRT





Protective factors

- Multiparity
- COCP use
- Physical exercise





No association with ethnicity

Screening

- There is no screening test for the general population
- Women known to have Lynch Syndrome
 - Offer screening with annual OPH and biopsy from the age of 35
 - Offer hysterectomy and BSO when family complete

Signs and Symptoms

- Abnormal PV bleeding
 - PMB



- Abnormal perimenopausal bleeding
- Irregular bleeding on HRT
- IMB
- PV discharge
- Endometrial cells on smear



Investigation

- One-stop clinic
 - History
 - Examination
 - -TVS
 - OPH
 - Endometrial biopsy





Investigation of PMB



Incidental finding of endometrial thickening in PM women



Investigation of unscheduled bleeding on HRT



Hysteroscopy Findings



Endometrial Hyperplasia (benign) Management

- Surveillance reversible risk factors
- Progesterone therapy
- Follow up
- Surgical Treatment





Atypical Hyperplasia Management

- Surgical Treatment
- Hormonal therapy
- Surveillance







Algorithm for the management of endometrial hyperplasia

RCOG/BSGE Joint Guideline Feb 2016 (GTG 67)



Breaking Bad News

- Prepare
- Time
- Privacy
- Support
 - Relative or friend
 - -CNS
 - MacMillan information pack



"Your test results were quite encouraging, however the real results give you slightly less than three months to live."

Breaking Bad News

- What does the patient already know?
- What does the patient want to know?
- Give a warning signal
- Use simple, clear language
- Pause and wait for a response
- Assess the patient's feelings
- Encourage the patient to express her concerns
- Check the patient's understanding
- Make a plan of action
- Ensure follow up
- Give written information

silence questions information information time clear warning body language check understanding eye contact empathy support summarise feeling signposting expectations action plan

avoid jargon