Clinical Gynecology for Family medicine

Associate Professor TAN THIAM CHYE
Head and Senior Consultant
Dept of OG (Inpatient Services), KKH
Associate Professor, Duke-NUS GMS
Deputy Director (Education), KKH

www.gms.edu.sg
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand causes and treatment of amenorrhea
2. Understand endocrinology of menstrual disorders
3. Management of abnormal uterine bleeding
4. Causes of infective vaginal discharge and treatment
PRIMARY AMENORRHOEA

Definition

• Never experienced menstrual period by 16 yo
Embryology of reproductive organs

ALL

46, XX

46, XY

Ext Genitalia
UG Sinus

V and V
Lower 1/3 Vagina

Igniting the pioneer spirit
Primary amenorrhoea

Constitutional delay
• Similar history in mother or sisters

Chronic systemic diseases
• Eg diabetes mellitus, renal disease

Primary ovarian failure
• Could be due to chemotherapy or radiotherapy

Chromosomal disorders

Turner syndrome
• 45, X0

Developmental disorders

Imperforate hymen
Transverse vaginal septum

XY female

Swer syndrome
• 46 XY karyotype
• Pure gonadal dysgenesis
• No androgens or Mullerian inhibitory factors
• Allows Mullerian duct to develop into fallopian tubes, uterus and upper vagina

Complete androgen insensitivity syndrome
• 46 XY karyotype
• Phenotypically female
• Tall with good breast development
• Normal female external genitalia
• Sparse pubic and axillary hair
• No uterus and upper vagina

Rokitansky-Kuster Hauser syndrome
• Failure of Mullerian duct development
• Congenital absence of uterus and upper vagina
• Normal 46 XX karyotype
Amenorrhoea Flow Chart

Physical examination and ultrasound

Breast present/ Uterus absent

Karyotype

XY → Dx: androgen insensitivity

Breast absent/ Uterus present

FSH

Elevated → Karyotype: XO → Turner Sd

Breast and uterus present

Same workup in Karyotype

XX → Dx: Müllerian agenesis

XY - Swyer

XX

Imperforate Hymen
Chronic Diseases / Constitutional Delay

Igniting the pioneer spirit
Management

• Refer OBGYN for investigations and management of primary amenorrhoea.

• For constitutional delay, no treatment is needed except reassurance.

• For chromosomal disorders and primary ovarian failure, small dose of ethinyl oestradiol 1μg daily can be started for 6 months, increasing to 2, 5, 10 and eventually 20 μg with increments at six monthly intervals. This is then followed by combined oral contraceptive pills.

• For vaginal and mullerian agenesis, vaginal reconstruction is necessary. This could be achieved by vaginal dilators or surgical procedures like William’s vulvo-vaginoplasty, McIndoe’s procedure or skin graft.

• For XY female, counseling with the parents is important to discuss on psychological issues of gender of rearing and gender identity. Management includes gonadectomy as the dysgenetic testes have a high lifetime risk of malignancy (30%).
Endocrine Control of Menstrual Cycle
SECONDARY AMENORRHOEA

DEFINITION
Cessation of menses for 6 months

Diagnosis
- Hypogonadotrophic hypogonadism
- Weight loss, anorexia, Exercise
- Kallmann’s syndrome
- Tumours (craniopharyngioma)

Features
- Low or normal gonadotrophins
- Negative withdrawal bleed

Diagnosis
- Hyperprolactinaemia
  - Prolactinoma
  - Drugs
- Sheehan’s syndrome
- Chromosomal
- Gonadal agenesis
- Resistant ovary syndrome
- Premature ovarian failure
- Iatrogenic

Features
- Raised prolactin
- Negative withdrawal bleed

Diagnosis
- Polycystic ovarian syndrome

Features
- Raised LH:FSH
- Pos withdrawal bleed

Diagnosis
- Cryptomenorrhoea
- Hypoplasia or absence of vagina
- Testicular feminization
- Asherman’s syndrome
- Infection

Features
- Normal hormone profile
- Negative oestrogen and progesterone withdrawal bleed
- Abnormal scan or examination
Secondary amenorrhoea

Pregnancy

Hypothalamic dysfunction (15%)
- Extreme weight gain/loss
- Excessive exercise

Pituitary dysfunction (10%)
- Prolactinoma (commonest)
- Sheehan syndrome
- Pituitary adenoma
- Craniopharyngioma

Ovarian dysfunction (70%)
- Polycystic ovarian syndrome (60%)
- Menopause (10%)
- Premature ovarian failure
  - < 40 years old

Hyperthyroidism (5%)

Resistant ovary syndrome

Igniting the pioneer spirit
PCOS - Diagnosis

- **Oligo- and/or anovulation**
  - Fewer than 8 menstrual cycles / year
- **Hyperandrogenism**
  - Clinical : Ferriman Gallwey score
  - Biochemical : Total Testosterone
- **Polycystic ovaries (PCO)**
  - presence of > 12 follicles (2-9 mm) in, or
  - increased ovarian volume (>10 ml)

Only one ovary fitting this definition - sufficient

2/3 of these criteria and exclusion of other etiologies (CAH, androgen-secreting tumours, Cushing's syndrome)

*ESHRE/ASRM 2003*
Investigations:

1. Urine pregnancy test to exclude pregnancy

2. Follicular stimulating hormone (FSH)
   • Suggests ovarian failure if > 30 IU/L
   • Low level suggests hypothalamic/ pituitary dysfunction
   • Reversal of LH/FSH ratio > 3:1 suggests PCOS

3. Serum prolactin level
   • Hyperprolactinaemia could cause secondary amenorrhoea

4. Thyroid function test
   • Hyperthyroidism could cause secondary amenorrhoea

5. Progestogen challenge test
   • Give 5mg oral norethisterone bd for 5 days
   • If there is withdrawal bleeding, there is presence of oestrogen and would mean that the patient would need cyclical progestogen for withdrawal bleeding to protect the endometrium from endometrial hyperplasia and carcinoma
   • If there is no withdrawal bleeding, then combined oral contraceptive pill would be needed
AUB and women’s health

- Women with AUB less likely to rate their health as excellent or good

- Women with AUB work an average of 3.6 weeks (24 days) less per year
  - Work loss is estimated to be USD$1700 per woman

- Estimated total direct cost USD$37billion annually

ABNORMAL UTERINE BLEEDING (AUB)

Definition
The normal menstrual cycle lasts between 24 and 38 days with menstrual flow lasting 2-8 days.

Any disturbance in the menstrual cycle or flow pattern is termed as abnormal uterine bleeding (AUB). (FIGO 2012)

Steps in workup of AUB

(1) Look for pallor. If pale, check HB.
(2) Ensure haemodynamical stability. Quantify severity of bleeding eg. number of pads used / day and presence of blood clots or episodes of flooding
(3) Clinical examination to exclude cervical lesion and do a PAP smear if last PAP smear >1 year ago
Traditionally in research, bleeding measured by volume of menstrual blood lost (>80 ml)

- Actual women of MBL/ cycle is not the main reason women seek care for heavy menstrual bleeding

Heavy menstrual bleeding (HMB) is defined as excessive menstrual blood loss which interferes with a woman’s physical, social, emotional and/or material quality of life. It can occur alone or in combination with other symptoms.

**UK-NICE 2007**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Days (past 6 months)</th>
<th>Normal or Abnormal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>every □ □ □ days</td>
<td>Absent (no periods or bleeding) = amenorrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Frequent (&lt;24 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Normal (24 to 38 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Infrequent (&gt;38 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>shortest: □ □ days</td>
<td>Prolonged (&gt;8 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>longest: □ □ days</td>
<td>Normal (up to 8 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regularity</td>
<td>shortest: □ □ □ days</td>
<td>Regular variation (shortest to longest ≤ 9 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>longest: □ □ □ days</td>
<td>Irregular (shortest to longest 10+ days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow volume</td>
<td>As determined by the patient - based on her assessment of the impact on her quality of life</td>
<td>Heavy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Light</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Intermenstrual Bleeding (IMB)** Bleeding between cyclically regular onset of menses

- None
- Random
- Cyclic (Predictable)
  - Early Cycle
  - Mid Cycle
  - Late Cycle

**Unscheduled Bleeding on Hormone Medication** (e.g., Birth Control Pills, Rings or Patches)

- Not Applicable (not on hormone medication)
- None (on hormone medication)
- Present

MG Munro BJOG 2016 *Igniting the pioneer spirit*
Leiomyoma Subclassification System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polyp</th>
<th>Coagulopathy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adenomyosis</td>
<td>Ovulatory dysfunction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leiomyoma</td>
<td>Endometrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy &amp; hyperplasia</td>
<td>Iatrogenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Not otherwise classified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Leiomyoma Submucous Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SM - Submucous</th>
<th>O - Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 Pedunculated intracavitary</td>
<td>3 Contacts endometrium; 100% intramural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 &lt;50% intramural</td>
<td>4 Intramural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ≥50% intramural</td>
<td>5 Subserous ≥50% intramural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Subserous &lt;50% intramural</td>
<td>7 Subserous pedunculated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Other (specify e.g. cervical, parasitic)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hybrid Leiomyomas**

(contact both the endometrium and the serosal layer)

| Two numbers are listed separated by a hyphen. By convention, the first refers to the relationship with the endometrium while the second refers to the relationship with the serosa. One example is below |
| 2-5 Submucous and subserous, each with less than half the diameter in the endometrial and peritoneal cavities, respectively. |

Eg AVM, endometritis
AUB - O

Infrequent menses
HMB
Anovulation with P4 deficiency

Absence of Progesterone

Estrogen

Menstrual flow
Estrogen

Progesterone

HEAVY AND REGULAR

Caused by local disturbances in endometrial function/deficiencies or excesses of fibriolytic activity that have an impact on coagulation

Ovarian

Menstrual flow

Uterine
von Willebrand disease in women with menorrhagia: a systematic review
Meena Shankar, Christine A. Lee, Caroline A. Sabin, Demetrios L. Economides, Rezan A. Kadir

Results  **Prevalence was 13% (95% CI 11–15.6%).** In the European studies—18% (95% CI 15–23%) compared with that in North American studies—10% (95% CI 7.5–13%).

This difference ($P=0.007$) is likely to be the result of differences in method of recruitment of study population, method of assessing MBL, ethnic composition of study population, criteria for diagnosis and values for von Willebrand factor.
· Perform UPT to exclude pregnancy related problems (threatened miscarriage, inevitable miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy)
· If there are bleeding tendencies, exclude blood dyscrasias for adolescents (13-18 years old)
· If there are symptoms of thyroid disorder or galactorrhoea, check thyroid function test or prolactin level
· Perform pelvic ultrasound scan to exclude pelvic pathology (fibroids/adenomyosis)

Endometrial biopsy (Sampling or D and C) recommended

➢ First line in all women over age 45 years
➢ Patients younger than 45 years with history of unopposed E2 (obesity, PCOS), failed medical management or persistent AUB
Case study

45 y.o. non pregnant woman with 5 years of heavy and regular menstrual bleeding. She experiences severe cramping and passes blood clots. Coagulopathy screen negative. On exam - her uterus enlarged (16 week size) and small trickle of blood seen from the cervical os.

What etiologies are in your differential diagnosis?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Igniting the pioneer spirit
45 y.o. non pregnant woman with 5 years of heavy and regular menstrual bleeding.

Ultrasound images represented below and endometrial biopsy with disordered proliferative endometrium. What is your differential diagnosis now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goals of Rx

- Alleviate acute bleeding. Give IM progesterone 100 mg stat
- Prevent future episodes of noncyclic bleeding – aim to give a bleed which is predictable in timing and amount
- Decrease risk of long term complications (eg development of endometrial cancer)

Refer OBGYN for endometrial assessment and further treatment if failed conventional initial treatment or age 45and above
PROGYLUTON

- Cyclical sequential combined HRT (2mg estradiol valerate for first 11 days and 2mg E2V with 0.5mg norgestrel for next 10 days)
- Regulates menstrual cycle and does not affect endogenous hormone production
- Does not interfere with ovulation
- Can be used by pre- and peri- menopausal patients
- First oral therapy approved for heavy menstrual bleeding (HMB) with contraceptive effect (E2V and Dienogest)

- Novel dosing regimen of 26 + 2 (ie 26 days “active” pills and 2 days of “placebo” pills, which provides good cycle control

- Reduces menstrual blood loss by 88% after 6 cycles of treatment

- Rapid and significant reduction of menstrual blood loss by 70 % after two cycles

- Low discontinuation rate of 3% with favourable safety profile
Mirena IUS

- Releases 20ug of LNG daily which affects endometrium locally
- Lasts 5 years
- Low local hormonal effect in endometrium which provides shorter and lighter menses and reduces dysmenorrhea
- 20% amenorrhoea after 1 year
- 20% intermittent per-vaginal spotting in 1st 6 months
- Lower risks of pelvic inflammatory disease and ectopic pregnancy compared with copper-IUCD
Depot Provera

- Intramuscular Depot Provera 150mg every 3 monthly
- Induce endometrial atrophy and amenorrhoea
- Irregular bleeding in first 3 months
- Side-effects: abdominal bloating, breast tenderness, weight gain, depression, water retention
Gonadotrophin Releasing Hormone analogue (GnRHa)

- Continuous treatment with GnRHa causes down-regulation of pituitary gland and subsequent decrease in gonadotrophins and ovarian steroids
- Causes amenorrhoea (90%)
- Side-effects are related to hypo-oestrogenism and post-menopausal in type (hot flushes, insomnia, mood swings)
- Not recommended for more than 6 months of continuous usage due to the risk of osteoporosis unless with hormonal add-back therapy
- Subcutaneous injection Zoladex (Goserelin) 3.6mg monthly, subcutaneous injection Lucrin (Leuprorelin) 3.75mg monthly / 11.25mg every 3-monthly, intra-muscular injection Decapetyl (Triptorelin) 3.75mg monthly
Danazol

- Induce amenorrhoea in majority if taken in moderate/high dose (> 400 mg daily)
- If taken at low dose (200 - 400 mg daily) it will induce amenorrhoea in some while others may experience light but often unpredictable bleed
- Masculinising side-effects such as hirsutism, acne, voice change (irreversible)
Surgical Management

- Endometrial ablation
- Hysterectomy
THE HEALTHY VAGINA

• The vagina serves as a passageway between external environment and reproductive organs

• pH balance of vagina is acidic (pH 3.8-4.4) – prevents infections

• Acidic environment is created by normally-occurring bacteria (lactobacilli)

• Vaginal secretions can be physiological

• Vaginal discharge is poorly indicative of STI
Pathological Causes

**Infective**
- Candidiasis
- *Trichomonas vaginalis*
- Bacterial vaginosis

**Non-Infective**
- Common causes:
  - Retained tampon or condom
  - Chemical irritation
  - Allergic responses
  - Ectropion
  - Endocervical polyp

**Fistula / Neoplasia**
Should a patient with vaginal discharge be investigated?

- High risk of STI
- Symptoms suggestive of upper genital tract infection (e.g. abdominal pain, dyspareunia or fever)
- Failed previous treatment
- Postnatal, post-miscarriage, or post-abortion
- Within 3 weeks of insertion of IUCD
- Requested by patient
Bacterial vaginosis (BV)

- Overgrowth of anaerobes (Gardnerella vaginalis, Mycoplasma hominis and Mobiluncus species)
- Replacement of lactobacilli and an increase in pH (from < 4.5 to 7.0)
- Spontaneous onset and remission of BV.
- Not considered a STI but occurs more commonly amongst sexually active women.
Treatment of BV

**General Measures**

• Avoid vaginal douching or use of antiseptic agents  
  Grade C, Level 3

**Indications**

1) All symptomatic women, pregnant or non pregnant.  
  Grade A, Level 1+

2) Asymptomatic women before surgical procedures.  
  Grade A, Level 1+
## Recommended Regimens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regimes</th>
<th>Grade and Level of evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Clindamycin cream 2% (5 g) intravaginally daily x 3 days or Clindamycin site-released (SR) cream 2% (5 g) intravaginally x single application OR</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Clindamycin 300 mg orally bid x 7 days OR</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Metronidazole gel 0.75% (5 g) intravaginally daily x 5 days OR</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Metronidazole pessary (500 mg) intravaginally bid x 7 days or daily x 14 days OR</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Metronidazole 400 mg orally bid x 7 days OR</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tinidazole 2 g orally single dose</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recurrent BV

- Occurs within 3/12 Rx (15-30%).
- Few published studies evaluating the optimal approach to frequent BV recurrences.
- Consider suppressive regimes but evidence to support their effectiveness is limited.
## Recurrent BV

### Suggested suppressive therapy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGIME</th>
<th>Grade and Level of evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Metronidazole gel 0.75% (5 g) twice weekly for 4 - 6 months</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR Metronidazole 400 mg orally bid for 3 days at the start and end of menstruation</td>
<td>Grade C, Level 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Suggested maintenance regime:

- Acetic acid vaginal gel use at time of menstruation and following unprotected sexual intercourse to maintain acidic vaginal pH.

Grade B, Level 2+
Recurrent BV

Follow up

• Follow-up not necessary if symptoms resolve.
• Test of cure not required.

Management of sex partners

• No clinical counterpart is recognised in males and screening and treatment has not shown to be beneficial for the patient or the male partner.
• Some studies reported a high incidence of BV in female partners of lesbian women with BV, but no study looks into treatment of partners of lesbian women simultaneously.
Vulvovaginal candidiasis (VVC)

- Candida albicans (80-90%).
- Non-albicans species include C. glabrata, C. tropicalis, C. krusei, C. parapsilosis, and Saccharomyces cerevisiae.
Vulvovaginal candidiasis (VVC)

- Risk factors: Pregnancy, DM, prolonged steroid therapy, antibiotics treatment, and immunosuppression.

- Lab tests include Gram-stain or wet mount (saline or 10% KOH) of swabs from vulva / vaginal wall which reveal budding yeast cells and pseudohyphae (sensitivity 60%), vaginal pH 4 - 4.5 and culture on Sabouraud medium.
Vulvovaginal candidiasis (VVC)

**Note:**

- Isolation of Candida species in absence of symptoms and signs does not suggest infection and is not an indication for treatment as 10-20% of women during reproductive years may be colonized with Candida species.
- None of the symptoms or signs pathognomonic.
- Symptoms and signs no guide to underlying causative species.
# Treatment of Candidiasis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGIME</th>
<th>Grade and Level of evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Butoconazole 1-sustained released (SR) cream site 2% (5 g) intravaginally x single application</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Clotrimazole pessary 200 mg intravaginally daily x 3 days or 100 mg or 1% cream (5 g) intravaginally daily x 7 days or 500 mg x single application</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Fluconazole 150 mg orally single dose</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Isoconazole pessary 600 mg intravaginally x single application</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Itraconazole 200 mg orally bid x 1 day</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Miconazole pessary 200 mg intravaginally daily x 3 days or 100 mg or 2% cream (5 g) intravaginally daily x 7 days</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Nystatin pessary 100,000 U daily x 14 days</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Treatment of Candidiasis

Note:

- All topical and oral azole therapies give a clinical and mycological cure rate of 80-90% in uncomplicated VVC. Nystatin preparations give 70-90% cure rate.

- Treatment choice - personal preference, availability and affordability as well as familiarity of the clinician.

- Topical azole treatment may damage latex condoms and diaphragms. Barrier methods not recommended as contraception during treatment.

- Topical azole treatment may cause vulvo-vaginal irritation and this should be considered if symptoms worsen.
Treatment of Candidiasis

Follow up
• Follow-up not necessary if symptoms resolve.
• Test of cure is not required.

Management of sex partners
• No evidence to support treatment of asymptomatic male sexual partners in acute or recurrent VVC.
Recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis

- Defined as 4 or more episodes of symptomatic vulvovaginal candidiasis in a year.
- May have partial resolution of symptoms between episodes.
- Positive microscopy or moderate/heavy growth of Candida on at least two episodes.
- 5% acute VVC will develop recurrent VVC.
- Usu due to C albicans although C.glabrata and other non-albicans species observed in 10-20% of recurrent VVC.
- Evaluate predisposing factors. These include uncontrolled DM, immunosuppression, high E2 state (e.g. use of OCP and HRT), disturbance of normal vagina flora (e.g. use of broad-spectrum antibiotics) and steroid use.
Treatment of Recurrent VVC

• Clinicians should be aware of psychosexual problems and depression.

• Principle of therapy involves an induction regimen to ensure clinical remission, followed immediately by a maintenance regime.
# Treatment of Recurrent VVC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Induction Regimens</th>
<th>Grade and Level of evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Fluconazole 150 mg orally every 72 hours x 3 doses</td>
<td>Grade A, Level 1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Topical imidazole therapy x 7-14 days according to symptomatic response</td>
<td>Grade C, Level 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maintenance Regimens</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Clotrimazole pessary 500 mg intravaginally once a week or 200 mg intravaginally twice a week</td>
<td>Grade B, Level 2++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Fluconazole 150 mg orally once a week</td>
<td>Grade B, Level 2++</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Treatment of Recurrent VVC

Note:

• Maintenance therapy should last 6 months. 90% of women remain disease-free during treatment.

  Grade B, Level 2++

• For women with relapses between doses, consider twice-weekly 150 mg fluconazole or 50 mg fluconazole daily.

  Grade C, Level 2+

• Monitor LFT when on regular oral azole Rx.

  Grade D, Level 4
Alternative treatment for VVC

Probiotics/Lactobacillus

• Insufficient evidence to support use of oral or vaginal LB to prevent VVC although there are anecdotal reports of benefit.
Special groups

**Candidiasis in diabetes mellitus**

- Optimise glycaemic control.
- Increased prevalence of non-albicans species, in particular C glabrata.
- For treatment of symptomatic women with C glabrata, boric acid 600 mg intravaginal suppository once a day for 14 days is as effective as a single dose of fluconazole 150 mg.

*Grade A, Level 1+*
Special groups

Candidiasis in HIV infection

- VVC occurs more frequently and with greater persistence in women with HIV infection. Treat with conventional methods.

Non-albicans VVC

- Majority due to C. glabrata susceptible to available azoles. C. krusei is intrinsically resistant to fluconazole.
- Optimal Rx of non-albicans VVC unknown.
- Non-albicans VVC may require longer courses (7-14 days).
Treatment

- Nystatin pessaries or non-fluconazole azole drug (oral or topical) are first line treatment for non-albicans VVC.

  Grade C, Level 2+

- Consider Amphotericin B vaginal suppositories 50 mg once a day for 14 days.
Trichomoniasis

- Caused by Trichomonas vaginalis.
- STI.
- 10 - 50% asymptomatic.
- Predominant symptoms: yellow-green and offensive discharge, vulval itch or dysuria.
- Vulva erythema or excoriations
- Cervical haemorrhages and ulcers can give the classical appearance of the “strawberry cervix” (2%).
Trichomoniasis

Management of sex partners

• Sexual contacts in preceding 60 days should be traced, screened and treated on epidemiologic grounds. If the last sexual exposure was >60 days, the patient’s most recent partner should be treated.

• Patients should be advised to avoid sexual intercourse (including oral sex) until they and their partner(s) have completed treatment and follow-up.

• Screening for coexisting sexually transmitted infections should be undertaken in both the patients and their partners.

• Women should be informed that TV is a STI and partner management and treatment is recommended for all partners in last 2 months.

Grade C, Level 2+

Igniting the pioneer spirit
Follow-up

• Follow-up unnecessary for asymptomatic patients. Patients with persistent symptoms should be retreated with metronidazole 400 mg orally bid for 7 days.

  Grade A, Level 1+

• If treatment failure occurs repeatedly, the patient can be treated with high dose oral metronidazole 2 g daily for 3 days.

  Grade A, Level 1+

Igniting the pioneer spirit
“This is a useful reference book and a fantastic educational resource. Multiple papers and NICE guidelines have been condensed and summarised into a readable format with beautiful illustrations, photos and diagrams. I will recommend this book to local GP trainees. Clear Photos. Useful diagrams and a good combination of medical and practical advice.”

British Medical Association Book Awards 2015

Practical Obstetrics and Gynaecology Handbook
For O&G Clinicians and General Practitioners
2nd Edition

A/Prof. Tan Thiam Chye
Dr. Tan Kim Teng
Dr. Tay Eng Hseon
Chief Editor: Dr. Sonali P. Chonkar

Thank you

Igniting the pioneer spirit