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Short Cases: Gynaecology

INTRODUCTION

Women present more than men to Primary Care between the ages of 16 and 60 years in the UK. This gender variation is partially explained by women consulting for reproductive and gynaecological health needs.

Gynaecological problems are common in general practice and most women will suffer from one of these conditions during their lives. The majority will be minor and easily treatable, but others may have a major impact on their quality of life or have significant consequences (such as infertility), or threaten life. Primary Care's role is vital in recognising symptoms, having a high index of suspicion in vague presentations, investigating, treating and referring women appropriately.

This module will focus on:

- a patient with pelvic pain
- symptoms of ovarian cancer - management will not be covered, as this is mainly undertaken in Secondary Care
- prolapse
- vulval/vaginal itch and discomfort.

Abnormal uterine bleeding, cervical screening, postmenopausal symptoms and various aspects of contraception including the combined oral contraceptive pill (COCP) are dealt with in other published PBSGL modules, so will not be covered in this module.

The full coverage of pelvic pain is too large a topic for a "short cases" module and only one cause will be defined in detail.