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Study of the correlation between von Willebrand's disease and Perimenopausal uterine bleeding.

Thesis
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MASTER OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

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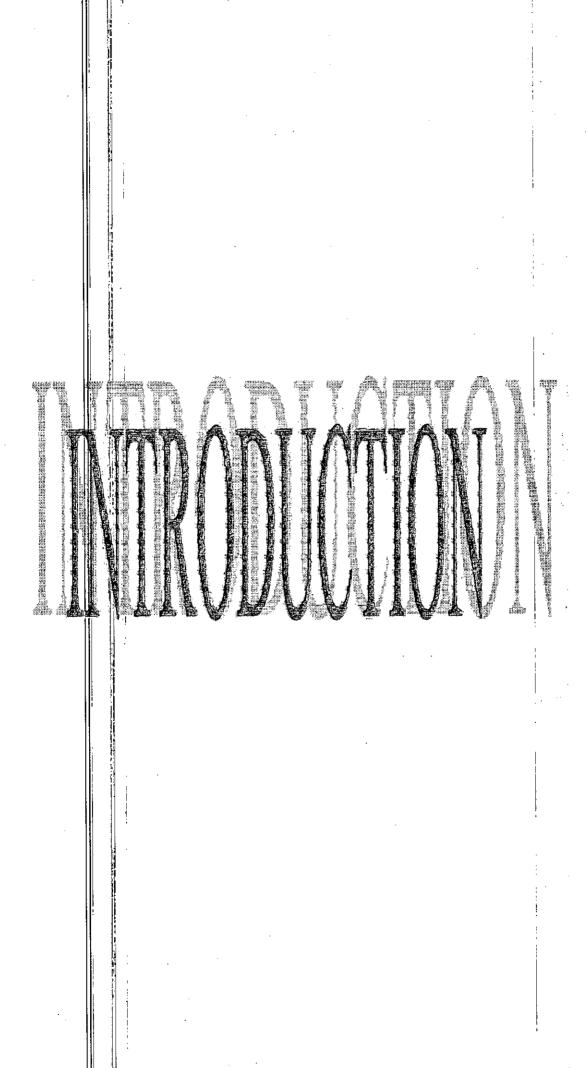
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Introduction

Perimenopausal uterine bleeding

Perimenopausal (Greek peri: around; meniaia: menstruation; pause: cessation) means 'around menopause' or 'around the cessation of menstruation'. It is well known that menopause occurs between 46 and 50 years of age; the perimenopausal age is thus often designated to be around 46-50 years.⁽¹⁾

Age of menopause depends on racial, nutritional and socio-economic factors. Bharadwaj et al. (2) found the age of menopause among Indian women to be 45.03 ± 5.17 years. Thus the perimenopausal age in these women would frequently be earlier than that of western women.

Epidemiologically, Brambilla et al.⁽³⁾ have defined perimenopause based on self-reported data of 1550 women aged between 45 and 55 years. The authors defined its inception as that period in a woman's menstrual history characterized by 3-11 months of amenorrhea and increased menstrual irregularity for those without amenorrhea. They described its cessation with the onset of menopause.

Endocrinologically, the perimenopausal women in one whose hormonal features are characterized by lower levels of estradiol (E2), higher levels of follicule-stimulating hormone (FSH), with still normal luteinizing hormone (LH) levels emphasizing the complexity of the hypothalamopituitary-ovarian regulating system. (4) The boundaries of the perimenopausal period appears to last for about 4 years. (5)

It is that transient phase in a woman's life when affective disorders may occur coincidentally or perimenopause itself may present as a non-specific stress or precipitating an affective disorder. (6)

Considering menorrhagia, both the fore mentioned relationships could be true: coincidental leiomyomas or, rarely, even an abnormality of pregnancy, can occur to cause menorrhagia, or perimenopause itself with its peculiar altered menstrual physiology could precipitate menorrhagia. (7)

• Incidence:

Abnormal uterine bleeding is commonly encountered in gynecologic practice, accounting for 15% of office visits and about 25% of gynecologic operation. The average menstrual cycle length is 28 days, with an average duration of 4 days and an average blood loss of 35 ml (9)

Consultations among perimenopausal patients for menstrual irregularities could be as high as 69%. (7)

• Aetiology:

Abnormal uterine bleeding may be categorized into two broad classifications: that due to organic causes and that caused by anovulation or oligo-ovulation, so called dysfunctional uterine bleeding. The initial evaluation of a patient must be guided by an understanding of the common causes of abnormal uterine bleeding in specific age groups. (10)

Table (1) organic causes of abnormal uterine bleeding⁽¹¹⁾

aginitis Indometritis Oophritis Oysplasia Carcinoma Oolyps ⁽¹²⁾
Oophritis Oysplasia Carcinoma
Dysplasia Carcinoma
Carcinoma
Carcinoma
Polyps ⁽¹²⁾
Hyperplasia ⁽¹³⁾
Polyps ⁽¹²⁾
Carcinoma ^(14,15)
Submucous ⁽¹⁶⁾
Intramural
Estrogen-producing tumors
Adenomyosis
Coagulation disorders
Thyroid disease
Liver disease
Sepsis
Oral contraceptives
Progestin-only contraceptives
Intrauterrine devices
Hormone replacement therapy(17)
Tamoxifen therapy(18,19,20)
Steroids

Hematological aspects of menorrhagia

Hematological disorders causing excessive uterine bleeding may have serious consequences, sometimes requiring emergency blood transfusion support and, more frequently, causing persistent iron-deficiency anemia, resulting in chronic fatigue and poor performance.⁽²¹⁾

Yet, the precise diagnosis of hemostatic disorders(particularly von Willebrand's disease) often eludes gynecologists, primarily owing to inadequate evaluation of these disorders. (22)

Hematological disorders that may cause excessive uterine bleeding:

.. (22,23) ...

I. Platelet disorders

1. Thrombocytopenia

(a)Bone marrow failure

- 1- Aplastic anemia.
- 2- Acute leukemia.
- 3- BM infiltration.
- 4- Antineoplastic drugs.

(b)Immune Thrombocytopenia

- 1- Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic purpura.
- 2- Drugs.
- 3- HIV-1.*
- 4- SLE*

(c)Non Immune Thrombocytopenia

- 1-Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic purpura.
- 2- Hemolytic uremic syndrome.
- 3- HELLP.*

2. Platelet function abnormalities

(a) Congenital

- 1- Glanzmann's thrombasthema.
- 2- Bernard saulier syndrome.
- 3- Storage pool disease.

(b) Acquired

Drugs as NSAIDS*

II. Von Willebrand's disease

- Congenital
- Acquired

- 1- Hypothyroidism
- 2- Angiodysplasia
- 3- SLE*
- 4- Lymphoproliferalive gammopathy