

UNIT 5: NEOPLASIA

Educational Topic 54: Endometrial Hyperplasia and Carcinoma

Rationale: Endometrial carcinoma is the most common gynecologic malignancy. Early recognition and proper evaluation of endometrial hyperplasia and cancer can reduce morbidity and mortality.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

A student should be able to:

- List the risk factors for endometrial hyperplasia/cancer
- Describe the symptoms and physical findings with endometrial hyperplasia/cancer
- Outline the causes, diagnosis and management of postmenopausal bleeding

TEACHING CASE

CASE: A 56 year-old nulligravid woman presents to the clinic with complaints of intermittent vaginal bleeding. She went through menopause 2 years ago and had no vaginal bleeding until 6 months ago when she had a three day episode of light bleeding. Since that time, she has had another 3 such episodes. Past medical history is remarkable for well-controlled hypertension, depression and “borderline” diabetes which is poorly controlled with diet alone. She never used oral contraceptives but was unable to become pregnant. She has had a laparoscopic cholecystectomy. She takes lisinopril and sertraline. Her family history is non-contributory. On examination, she has normal vital signs, and weighs 247 pounds. Her heart, lung and abdominal exams are normal. On pelvic examination, she has normal external genitalia, vagina and cervix. The bimanual exam is difficult secondary to the patient’s habitus, but the uterus feels slightly enlarged and no adnexal masses are palpable.

COMPETENCY-BASED DISCUSSION & KEY TEACHING POINTS:

Competencies addressed:

- Patient Care
- Medical Knowledge
- Systems-Based Practice

1. What is your differential diagnosis for this patient?
2. What is the etiology of endometrial cancer?
3. What risk factors does this patient have for endometrial carcinoma?
4. What are the next steps in the diagnostic work-up of this patient?
5. An office endometrial biopsy revealed endometrial adenocarcinoma. How would you manage this patient?

REFERENCES

Beckman CRB, et al. Obstetrics and Gynecology. 7th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2013.

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