Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) Assessment

Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) is an infection affecting the uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries. Although not all cases of PID are caused by a sexually transmitted infection, Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae organisms are commonly associated with the condition. If left untreated, inflammation of the cervix or cervicitis may also lead to PID. Women with PID may not experience clinical symptoms; however, lower abdominal pain may occur. Other signs and symptoms of PID include fever and chills, foul smelling vaginal discharge, painful intercourse, dysuria, spotting and cervical motion tenderness. PID, if undiagnosed and untreated, can lead to irreversible scarring of the reproductive organs and may lead to sterility.

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Mechanism

Untreated Cervicitis
Untreated Cervix-certificate-in-flames
If left untreated, inflammation of the cervix, or cervicitis, can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). Although not all cases of PID are caused by a sexually transmitted infection, pathogens transmitted sexually or bacterial vaginosis-associated pathogens are commonly associated with the condition. Approximately 15% or fewer of these infections are associated with other causes, such as enteric or respiratory pathogens.

Assessment

May Be Asymptomatic
Thumbs-up with Maybe
Women with PID may not experience clinical symptoms. If this is the case, irreversible scarring to the reproductive organs may lead to sterility before the patient is even diagnosed with PID.

Dysuria
Urine-in-flames
Patients may also experience dysuria, or pain with urination.

Vaginal Discharge with Odor
Vagina-violet with Smelly Discharge
Patients may experience foul smelling vaginal discharge. Women who notice a change in the character or quantity of vaginal discharge should consult a healthcare professional.

Fever
Fever-beaver
Patients with PID may experience fever and chills.

Dyspareunia
Painful Sex with Disc-piranha
Dyspareunia or painful intercourse can occur in women with PID.

Lower Abdominal Pain
Lower Abdominal Pain-bolt
Gradual onset of pain in the lower abdominal area may progress to constant pain. In these patients, walking may increase lower abdominal pain. Pain related to PID may also occur with intercourse.

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Spotting

Blood-spots

Spotting, or irregular bleeding between periods may occur. Women with PID may also notice spotting after intercourse.

Cervical Motion Tenderness

Cervix-certificate Moving with Tenderizer

Women with PID will experience pain when the cervix is being palpated or assessed, this is known as cervical motion tenderness. This is also referred to as the “chandelier sign.” The name describes the upward reaching motion, as if reaching for a chandelier, that a woman makes during a painful pelvic exam.

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