



# **Uterine Corpus Pathology**

### **Objectives**

- Lesions of endometrium of uterus: risk factors, clinical presentation, macroscopic and histological features of:
  - Endometrial hyperplasia.
  - Endometrial carcinoma.
- Lesions of myometrium of uterus:
  - **Leiomyoma**: pathology and clinical features.
  - Leiomyosarcoma.



Orange: Doctor notes Grey: Extra/Robbins Green: Females slides



### **Endometrial hyperplasia**

#### Introduction

- Proliferation of endometrial glands; resulting in increased gland:stroma<sup>1</sup>
   ratio of the endometrium relative to normal tissue.
- Induced by **persistent**, **prolonged** stimulation of the endometrium by **high levels of estrogen**.
- It may progress to **endometrial carcinoma**.
  - Risk of developing to carcinoma depends on:
    - Level & duration of **estrogen excess**.
    - **Severity** of hyperplasia.
    - Presence of **cellular atypia**.

#### Causes

- **1.** Any condition where there is high estrogen.
- **2.** Anovulatory menstrual cycles (failure of ovulation) such as in perimenopause.
- **3.** Excessive endogenous production of estrogen:
  - a. Polycystic ovary syndrome (Stein-Leventhal syndrome).
  - b. Granulosa cell tumors of the ovary.
  - c. Cortical stromal hyperplasia (excessive ovarian cortical function).
- **4.** Exogenous administration or intake of estrogenic steroids without counter balancing progestin, over a long period of time.

#### **Risk factors (Males slides)**

- Obesity, western diet.
- Nulliparity (never having given birth).
- Diabetes mellitus.
- Hypertension.
- Hyperestrinism.

#### **Clinical features**

- Most common: abnormal uterine bleeding (menorrhagia).
- Mild types occur in younger patients.
  - regress spontaneously or after treatment.
- Severe types occur in perimenopausal or postmenopausal women.
  - This form has a **significant premalignant potential**.







## **Endometrial hyperplasia**

#### B Classifications Based on the I. Simple hyperplasia Based on the architecture of the With Simple presence or endometrial Without atypia Atypia A. absence of atypia of glands, i.e. With atypia B. the cells lining the depending on the endometrial Without degree of glandular **Complex hyperplasia** II. Complex Atypia glands. complexity and Without atypia A. crowding it can be: B. With atypia

Atypia: loss of polarity, vesicular nuclei, prominent nucleoli, rounded cells.

#### Simple hyperplasia without atypia

- **Cystic hyperplasia:** glands are variably shaped and sized, and are **cystically dilated**, with abundant stroma.
- Mild increase in gland to stroma ratio.
- May progress to cystic atrophy.
- Rarely progress to adenocarcinoma (1% may develop).

#### Simple hyperplasia <u>with</u> atypia

- Uncommon.
- Architecture of simple hyperplasia, but there is **atypia** within the glandular epithelial cells. (less crowding then complex)
- 10% progress to carcinoma.

#### Complex hyperplasia <u>without</u> atypia

- Complex, crowded glands with **papillary infoldings**.
- **Crowded glands**: the glandular structures are close to each other "**back-to-back**" with little stroma in between.
- However, epithelial cells are normal **without atypia**.
- 3% progress to adenocarcinoma.

#### Complex hyperplasia <u>with</u> atypia

- Complex proliferation "back-to-back" with atypia.
- Nuclei are:
  - Enlarged and rounded.
  - Show loss of polarity<sup>1</sup>.
  - Have irregular nuclear membranes.
- 30% of women with this diagnosis have a carcinoma somewhere else in the uterus.
- 30% progress to adenocarcinoma.

Swiss cheese appearance





## **Endometrial hyperplasia**

#### **New classification**

- Endometrial hyperplasia is placed into two categories based on presence of atypia:
  - Non atypical endometrial hyperplasia, which carries a low risk (1% 3%) for progression to endometrial carcinoma.
  - Atypical endometrial hyperplasia /Endometrioid intraepithelial neoplasia (EIN), associated with a much higher risk (20%–50%).
- The importance of this classification is that atypia correlates with presence endometrial carcinoma.
- When atypia is discovered it must be evaluated for the presence of cancer, and usually indicates a hysterectomy in patients no longer desiring fertility. In younger patients high dose progestin may be used to preserve the uterus.



Here is a cookie to make you feel better





### **Endometrial carcinoma**

#### Introduction

- The fifth most common cancer in women.
- Usually arise is **postmenopausal women** causing **bleeding**.
- Early detection and cures are possible.
- Classified into:
  - **Type 1: endometrioid** carcinoma.
  - Type 2: serous carcinoma.

#### Type 1: Endometrioid carcinoma

- Account for 80% of endometrial cancer (the most common type).
- It is sequential to endometrial hyperplasia, however may occur independently, especially in older patients.
- It is associated with estrogen excess.

#### **Risk factors**

- Obesity, western diet, hypertension, DM.
- Nulliparity.
- Hyperestrinism.
- Chronic anovulation (the ovaries are not releasing an oocyte).

#### Genetics

• Women with germline mutation in in **PTEN** (cowden syndrome).

PTEN

• Also germline mutation in DNA mismatch repair gene (Lynch syndrome).

hMLH

KRAS

• TP53 are uncommon, and are found in later stages of the development of this tumor. Seen in half of poorly differentiated endometrioid carcinoma.



Well differentiated No invasion



Invasion of myometrium

β-catenin PIK3CA

Estrogen therapy.

Late menopause.

Tamoxifen therapy (in breast cancer).

High socioeconomic status.



Moderately differentiated

Poorly differentiated



### **Endometrial carcinoma**

#### **Type 2: Serous Carcinoma**

- Could be:
  - Serous papillary (papillary is more common).
  - Clear cell carcinoma.

#### Serous carcinoma

- Account for **15%** of endometrial cancer.
- Occur later in life, about one decade later than type 1 carcinoma, in older women with endometrial **atrophy**.
- Not associated with hyperestrinism or preexisting hyperplasia.

#### Genetics

- Mutation in **p53** is present in at least 90% of serous endometrial carcinoma.
- It is preceded by Serous Endometrial Intraepithelial Carcinoma **SEIC** (similar to carcinoma in situ).
  - TP53 mutation is often detected in SEIC, giving the mutation a role in the development of the disease.



#### **Clinical features**

- Most patients are between 50 and 60 years.
- Patients tend to be obese and nulliparous.
- Menorrhagia and leucorrhea.
- Elderly women present with postmenopausal bleeding.
- Diagnosis confirmed by biopsy or curettage and histological examination.

#### Morphology

#### Gross:

- Tumors are **large**, **bulky**, and **poorly differentiated** which invade into the myometrium.
- May appear normal or **exophytic**<sup>1</sup> or **infiltrative**.



<sup>1-</sup> Grow beyond the surface.

### **Endometrial carcinoma**

#### Histopathology:

- Both type I and type II are adenocarcinomas.
- Tumor originate in the endometrium, and can infiltrate myometrium, and enter vascular and lymphatic spaces.
- **Serous carcinoma** has a much greater cytological atypia and poorly differentiated; therefore more aggressive.











nmunohistochemistry show accumulation of P53

#### Prognosis

- Tumor spread:
  - **Direct** myometrial invasion followed by extension to periuterine structures.
  - Lymphatic: to lymph nodes
  - By **blood**: in late stages to lung liver, and bone.
- Prognosis depend on:
  - Histological type.
  - Stage.
  - Grade (extent of spread).
- Endometrioid (type 1) has better prognosis than other types.
- Serous (type 2) has poorer prognosis.
- However, stage is the major determinant factor of survival.







	Type 1	Type 2
Histological type	Endometrioid adenocarcinoma	Serous or clear cell carcinoma
Age	Premenopausal & perimenopausal (50-60 yrs)	Post menopausal (~ 70 yrs)
Unopposed estrogen	Present	Absent
Precursor lesion	Hyperplasia with atypia	Endometrial intraepithelial carcinoma
Growth	Slow growing	Rapidly progressing
Grade	Low	High
Myometrial invasion	Usually superficial	Usually deep
Prognosis	Favorable	Poor
Genetic alteration	PTEN, microsatellite instability	P53 mutations

### Leiomyoma

#### Introduction

- **Benign** tumors that **arise from smooth muscle cells** of the myometrium.
- Clinically referred to as **fibroids**, due of their firmness.
- Most common benign tumor in females, affecting 30-50% of female at the reproductive age. More common in **black women**.
- Stimulated by estrogen:
  - They **increase** in size during <u>pregnancy or taking contraceptives</u>.
  - **Decrease** In size after <u>menopause</u>.

#### Genetics

- 40% have chromosome abnormalities
- Rearrangement of chromosomes 6 & 12 which are also found in other benign neoplasms like lipomas and endometrial polyps.
- Mutation in the **MED12** gene has been found in 70% of leiomyomas, which encodes component of the RNA polymerase transcription complex.

#### **Clinical features**

- Asymptomatic, discovered incidentally on routine pelvic examination.
- **Menorrhagia** (Most common) with or without metrorrhagia which can cause anemia.
- Sometimes pelvic pain.
- Urinary frequency (if the fibroid is compressing the urinary bladder).
- May cause infertility by interfering with implantation
- In pregnant women:
  - It may cause abortion.
  - Obstructed labor.
  - Postpartum hemorrhage.
- Rarely progress to sarcoma, if ever.

### Leiomyoma

#### Morphology

#### Gross:

- Well circumscribed, firm, spherical mass.
- Cut surface: whorled, tan-white
- Could be single but more likely multiple scattered within uterus, with ranging size.
- Locations:
  - Intramural: within myometrium (most common)
  - Submucosal: directly beneath endometrium
  - **Subserosal**: beneath serosa; may become attached to surrounding organs or are pedunculated and attached to the serosa
  - **Parasitic leiomyoma**: A pedunculated subserosal fibroid that undergoes torsion, detaches from the uterus, and sustains its growth through neovascularization from adjacent tissues.

#### Histopathology:

- Interlacing bundles of smooth muscle cells with collagenous stroma.
- Individual cells are uniform in shape and size.
- Characteristic oval to elongated nucleus.
- Mitotic figures are scarce.

## Leiomyosarcoma

#### Introduction

- Rare, **malignant** tumor that almost always arises de novo<sup>1</sup> from the mesenchymal cells of the myometrium.
- Unlike leiomyomas. Leiomyosarcomas are **solitary** and arise in postmenopausal women.
- Poor prognosis:
  - Recurrence is common after surgery .
  - may metastasize, typically to the lung.

#### Morphology

- Diagnostic features:
  - 1. Tumor necrosis.
  - 2. Cytological atypia.
  - 3. Mitotic activity.
- Because increased mitotic activity may be found in benign smooth muscle tumors; **all three features must be present** to make a diagnosis or malignancy.









<sup>1-</sup> starting from the beginning - no precursor.

### Summary

Endometrial hyperplasia		
Intro	Proliferation of endometrial glands, may progress to carcinoma <b>Clinical features:</b> menorrhagia, in young regress normally, in postmenopausal women.	
Causes	<ul> <li>Persistent prolonged estrogen stimulation:</li> <li>anovulatory cycle</li> <li>excessive production of estrogen: polycystic ovarian syndrome, granulosa cell tumor</li> <li>Exogenous intake of estrogen steroids</li> </ul>	
Classification	<ul> <li>Based on architecture of glands:</li> <li>simple: abundant stroma, less crowded</li> <li>complex: crowded glands, "back-to-back", papillary infolding</li> <li>Based on Presence of Atypia:</li> <li>With Atypia: show loss of polarity, vesicular nuclei, prominent nucleoli, rounded cells.</li> <li>Without Atypia: does not show features of Atypia</li> <li>Atypia has the strongest correlation with development of carcinoma.</li> </ul>	

Uterine Tumors		
Endometrial carcinoma	<ul> <li>Malignancy of endometrium, usually in postmenopausal women</li> <li>1- Endometrioid: it is sequential to endometrial hyperplasia, associated with estrogen excess.</li> <li>- genetic: PTEN mutation</li> <li>Better prognosis</li> <li>2- Serous: occurs later than type one, associated with p53 mutation,</li> <li>- it is preceded by Serous endometrial intraepithelial carcinoma.</li> <li>Poorer prognosis</li> </ul>	
Leiomyoma	<ul> <li>Benign tumors of smooth muscle cells, referred to as fibroids.</li> <li>Stimulated by estrogen: <ul> <li>It increase in size during pregnancy or taking contraceptives</li> <li>Decrease In size after menopause</li> </ul> </li> <li>Mutation in MED12 gene. Or chromosome 6 &amp; 12 rearrangement</li> <li>Clinical features: Asymptomatic or menorrhagia, urinary frequency, infertility, rarely progress to sarcoma.</li> </ul>	
Leiomyosarcoma	<ul> <li>Malignant tumor of smooth muscle cells</li> <li>Solitary and arise in postmenopausal women.</li> <li>poor prognosis: recurrence &amp; metastasis is common.</li> <li>Morphology: necrosis, Atypia, Mitotic activity.</li> </ul>	

### Quiz

1) A 42-year-old woman has had menometrorrhagia for the past 2 months. She has no history of prior irregular menstrual bleeding, and she has not yet reached menopause. On physical examination, there are no vaginal or cervical lesions, and the uterus appears normal in size, but there is a right adnexal mass. An abdominal ultrasound scan shows the presence of a 7-cm solid right adnexal mass. Endometrial biopsy shows hyperplastic endometrium, but no cellular atypia. What is the most likely lesion that underlies her menstrual abnormalities?

- A- Corpus luteum cyst
- **B-** Endometrioma
- C- Granulosa-theca cell tumor
- D- Mature cystic teratoma

2) A 62-year-old childless woman noticed a blood-tinged vaginal discharge twice during the past month. Her last menstrual period was 10 years ago. Bimanual pelvic examination shows that the uterus is normal in size, with no palpable adnexal masses. There are no cervical erosions or masses. Her body mass index is 33. Her medical history indicates that for the past 30 years she has had hypertension and type 2 diabetes mellitus. An endometrial biopsy specimen is most likely to show which of the following?

- A- Adenocarcinoma
- **B-** Choriocarcinoma
- C- Leiomyosarcoma
- D- Malignant müllerian mixed tumor

3) A study of patients with postmenopausal uterine bleeding reveals that some of them have malignant neoplasms that arise from prior atypical hyperplastic lesions. The peak incidence is between 55 and 65 years of age in women who have obesity, hypertension, and/or diabetes mellitus. Molecular analysis reveals mutations of the PTEN tumor suppressor gene in most of them. Their malignancies tend to remain localized for years before spreading to local lymphatics. Which of the following neoplasms is most likely to have these characteristics?

- A- Clear cell carcinoma
- B- Endometrioid carcinoma
- C- Leiomyosarcoma
- **D-** Müllerian mixed tumor
- E- Serous carcinoma
- F- Stromal sarcoma

4) A 62-year-old obese, nulliparous woman has an episode of vaginal bleeding, which produces only 5 mL of blood. On pelvic examination, there is no enlargement of the uterus, and the cervix appears normal. A Pap smear shows cells consistent with adenocarcinoma. Which of the following preexisting conditions is most likely to have contributed to the development of this malignancy?

- **A-** Adenomyosis
- **B-** Chronic endometritis
- C- Endometrial hyperplasia
- **D-** Use of oral contraceptives

5) A 53-year-old woman whose last menstrual period was 3 years ago notes vaginal bleeding for a week. On physical examination, her uterus is markedly enlarged, but there are no adnexal masses. CT imaging reveals an irregular 8-cm mass in the body of the uterus. A total abdominal hysterectomy is performed, and microscopic examination of the soft, hemorrhagic mass shows spindle cells with atypia and numerous mitoses. There is coagulative necrosis of tumor cells. Which of the following is the most likely cell of origin for this mass? A- Cytotrophoblastic cells

- **B-** Endometrial glandular cells
- **C-** Germ cells
- **D-** Smooth muscle cells
- E- Squamous epithelial cells

#### 6) A 69-year-old woman has passed blood per vagina for a month. On pelvic examination no abnormal findings are noted. Which of the following diagnostic procedures should be performed next?

- A- Endometrial biopsy
- B- Magnetic resonance imaging
- **C-** Microbiologic culture
- **D-** Pap smear
- **E-** Pregnancy test

### 7) Which of the following is the most common benign tumor in females?

- A- Leiomyoma.
- **B-** Lipoma.
- C- Thecoma.
- D- Brenner tumor.

1- C 2- A 3- B 5- A 7- A 7- A 7- A

