ENDOMETRIOSI: UNA VISIONE NUOVA



ALESSANDRO FASCIANI



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- Tra le adolescenti con **dolore pelvico** severo è stata stimata una prevalenza di endometriosi del 53%.
- E' inoltre la prima causa di ricovero ospedaliero ginecologico nelle donne di età compresa fra i 15 e 44 anni.
- Frequentemente la prima diagnosi è tra i 20 ed i 35 anni.
- Dati recenti riportano che nell'Unione Europea l'endometriosi interessi circa 14 milioni di ragazze e giovani donne.
- <u>Il 25-35%</u> delle donne con **problemi riproduttivi** ed il 20-40% delle donne con dolore pelvico cronico <u>presenta lesioni di tipo</u> endometriosico.

Endometriosis and infertility

The Practice Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine

Birmingham, Alabama

The current clinical opinion is that a surgical procedure such as laparoscopy is required for definitive diagnosis of endometriosis. Given this state of clinical practice, an important question is when to perform laparoscopy to determine if endometriosis is present. A history and physical examination can yield a number of significant findings, including affected first degree relatives, chronic pelvic pain and dysmenorrhea, retroverted uterus, adnexal masses, cul de sac nodularity and uterosacral ligament thickening and tenderness, but none is diagnostic. Ultrasound can help the clinician establish a presumptive diagnosis of ovarian involvement with endometriosis, but laparoscopy is necessary to confirm the diagnosis. Endometriosis is a heterogeneous

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- Le stime di prevalenza configurano l'endometriosi come una **priorità** nell'ambito dei programmi di tutela della salute pubblica.
- La carenza di informazione diffusa, l'assenza di protocolli terapeutici univoci e condivisi e la attuale scarsa disponibilità di servizi territoriali adeguati sono fattori che creano forte aspettativa e rendono complessa la definizione e l'attuazione di programmi efficaci di prevenzione, di diagnosi precoce e di cura.
- I recenti dati internazionali indicano un **ritardo diagnostico di oltre nove anni** nonché frequenti diagnosi sbagliate dovute alla mancanza di consapevolezza e comprensione dei sintomi.

OBIETTIVI

- **Diagnosi** di endometriosi.
- **Informazione** esaustiva di cos'è l'endometriosi.
- •Valutazione pre-operatoria comprensiva di localizzazione e <u>quantificazione del dolore</u> e, quando necessario, di indagini quali RMN / CLISMA-TC al fine di pianificare una equipe operatoria selezionata al caso (es. Ginecologo + Chirurgo Generale nei casi con interessamento intestinale).
- Sistematica stadiazione intraoperatoria della malattia endometriosica secondo la "ASRM Revised Classification of Endometriosis" al fine di potere personalizzare la terapia medica per ogni caso immediatamente dopo la chirurgia.

OBIETTIVI

- Follow-up delle Pazienti operate di Endometriosi.
- Immediato trasferimento dati al **Centro di Diagnosi e Terapia dell'Infertlità** per quelle Pazienti con desiderio di maternità alle quali sia stata diagnosticata sterilità da endometriosi.
- Monitoraggio epidemiologico del fenomeno endometriosi e conduzione di idonee campagne informative di prevenzione nell'area di pertinenza della A.S.L.
- Sviluppo di protocolli di **ricerca** di base e clinica nel campo dell'endometriosi.

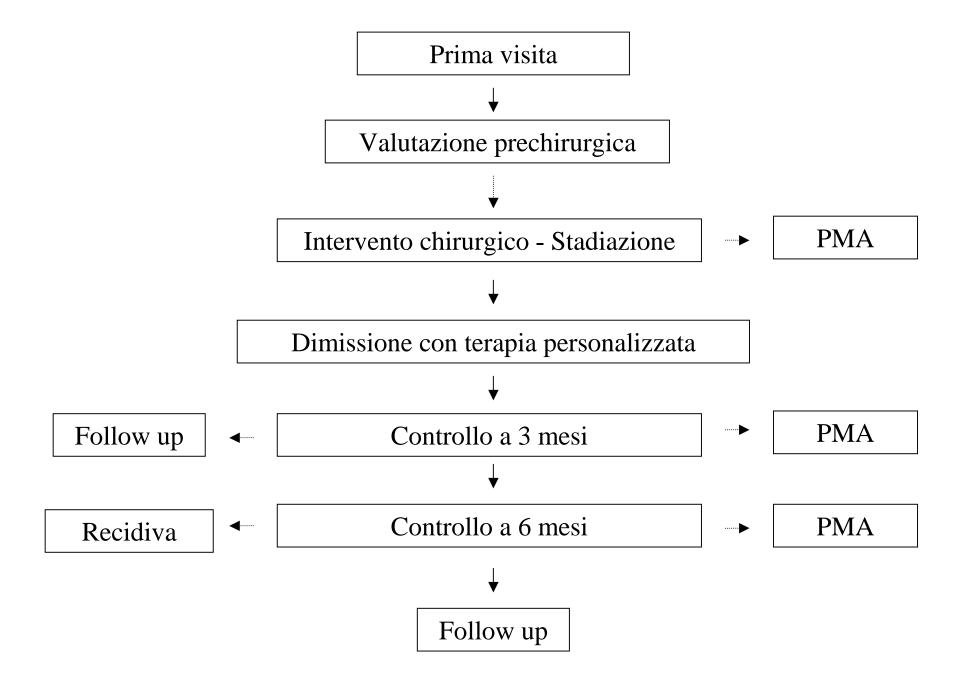
Recependo la delibera 30/2004 del 19-4-2004 del Parlamento Europeo

il 18/1/2006 il Senato ha chiuso il tavolo tecnico dichiarando l'Endometriosi "Malattia Sociale"

Organizzazione di **percorsi diagnostico-terapeutici specifici** per le pazienti affette.

Istituzione della Giornata Nazionale dell'Endometriosi, ossia un "Awareness day" nell'intento di accrescere le conoscenze su tale condizione debilitante.

Istituzione di fondi per la prevenzione e la ricerca nel campo di tale patologia.



- L'opinione clinica dominante è infatti che la diagnosi definitiva di endometriosi sia chirurgica e riteniamo che la laparoscopia sia in questi casi oltrechè diagnostica / operativa soprattutto "**prognostica**".
- Dati come la stadiazione della endometriosi pelvica e lo stato delle tube, infatti, sono assolutamente necessari per formulare un piano terapeutico che porti a significative percentuali di gravidanza.
- Una delle molte sfide che i fertilologi si trovano dunque ad affrontare è quella di decidere **quando eseguire la laparoscopia** al fine di diagnosticare l'endometriosi.

- Una delle possibili soluzioni a questo problema è quello di standardizzare, computare e analizzare in maniera obiettiva e riproducibile tutti i dati generati dal percorso diagnosticoterapeutico con approccio multidisciplinare che le pazienti affrontano quando vi sia il sospetto clinico di endometriosi.
- Nel nostro centro abbiamo creato un software capace di calcolare in tempo reale 35 indicatori clinici derivanti dall'auto-valutazione della paziente, dalla visita e dalla diagnostica.

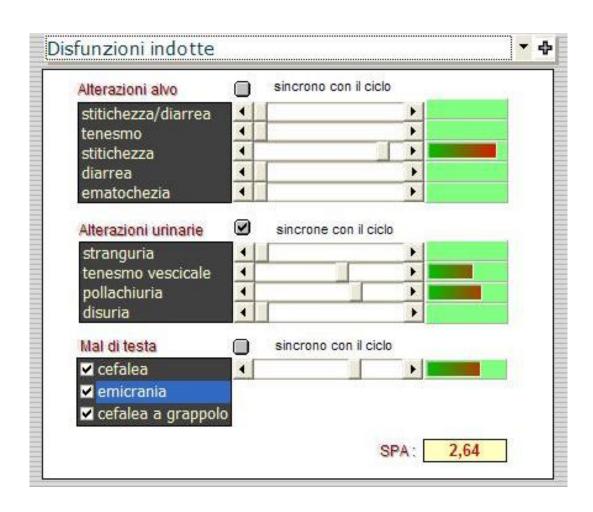
Creazione di software dedicato al percorso diagnostico –terapeutico per endometriosi



Creazione di software dedicato al percorso diagnostico –terapeutico per endometriosi



Creazione di software dedicato al percorso diagnostico –terapeutico per endometriosi



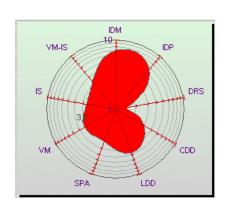
Creazione di software dedicato al percorso diagnostico -terapeutico per endometriosi

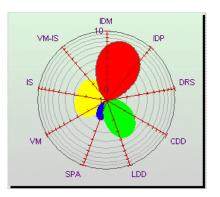


Le variabili e i parametri clinici, analizzati secondo la fattorizzazione ad unico dominio (Reina S et al. 2005), sono espressi da un punteggio normalizzato capace di fornire un livello sia <u>qualitativo</u> che <u>quantitativo</u> di patologia:

l'Indice di Patologia Endometriosi (IPE)

| Valutazione del dolore (IDM + IDP + DRS + CDD) | 36,94 |
|--|-------|
| Limitazioni alle funzioni e alle attività (LDD) | 81,70 |
| Sintomi patologici e alterazioni (Alvo/urinarie) (SPA) | 21,50 |
| Medico alla visita ginecologica (VM) | 9,85 |
| Diagnostica e referti strumentali (IS) | 41,67 |





Pannelli Collezioni di indicatori Indicatori



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Salvo Reina, Institute of Microbiology School of Medicine University of Genoa,

Vito M. Reina, ICT Freelance in Rome

Eugenio A. Debbia, University of Genoa, Italy

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MODELLO BILANCIATO

DOL (AUTO) VALUTAZIONE DOLORE

LDD LIMITAZIONI QUALITA' DELLA VITA

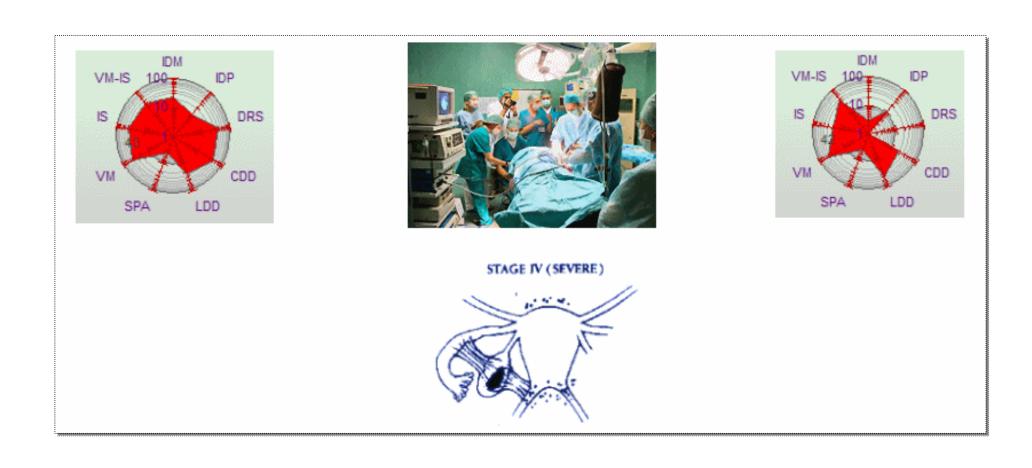
SPA SINTOMATOLOGIA INDOTTA

GIN VALUTAZIONE GINECOLOGICA

INDAGINI STRUMENTALI E DIAGNOSTICA IS

Indice Endometriosi > Fase II

65 Pazienti affette da endometriosi 35 casi appaiati per IE (Pre/Post)



| | AGE | EIPRE | EIPOST | DELTA | ASRM | DOLPRE | DOLPOST |
|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| N | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| Min | 25 | 14,18 | 0 | 39,7674 | 3 | 6,03 | 0 |
| Max | 46 | 58,77 | 20,72 | 100 | 92 | 81,68 | 28,37 |
| Mean | 34,4063 | 32,8319 | 9,54313 | 68,9833 | 39,5625 | 39,9725 | 7,74813 |
| Std. error | 1,05862 | 2,1402 | 0,794964 | 2,48163 | 4,20755 | 3,48187 | 1,4891 |
| Variance | 35,8619 | 146,574 | 20,223 | 197,072 | 566,512 | 387,949 | 70,9574 |
| Stand. dev | 5,98848 | 12,1068 | 4,497 | 14,0382 | 23,8015 | 19,6964 | 8,42362 |
| Median | 34 | 31,42 | 8,54 | 70,7117 | 39,5 | 37,35 | 5,135 |
| Skewness | 0,393749 | 0,381122 | 0,494212 | -0,196176 | 0,365601 | 0,193585 | 1,19163 |
| Kurtosis | -0,726268 | -0,753595 | 0,107758 | -0,269493 | -0,692565 | -0,709264 | 0,166352 |

| | LDDPRE | LDDPOST | SPAPRE | SPAPOST | GINPRE | GINPOST | ISPRE | ISPOST |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| N | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| Min | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Max | 95 | 48,3 | 41 | 7 | 51,69 | 16,62 | 75 | 58,33 |
| Mean | 30,9063 | 4,86125 | 9,04688 | 1,375 | 17,9816 | 2,57594 | 48,6972 | 35,6788 |
| Std. error | 4,9217 | 1,67911 | 1,75279 | 0,390151 | 2,1497 | 0,688173 | 3,41097 | 2,18947 |
| Variance | 775,141 | 90,2217 | 98,3122 | 4,87097 | 147,879 | 15,1546 | 372,311 | 153,4 |
| Stand. dev | 27,8414 | 9,49851 | 9,91525 | 2,20703 | 12,1606 | 3,89289 | 19,2954 | 12,3855 |
| Median | 25,32 | 1 | 6,75 | 0 | 13,54 | 0 | 58,33 | 41,67 |
| Skewness | 0,685053 | 3,14716 | 1,21406 | 1,17783 | 0,955015 | 1,649 | -1,05453 | -1,32802 |
| Kurtosis | -0,712297 | 11,0693 | 1,2474 | -0,192854 | 0,0957324 | 2,80092 | 0,470857 | 1,86287 |

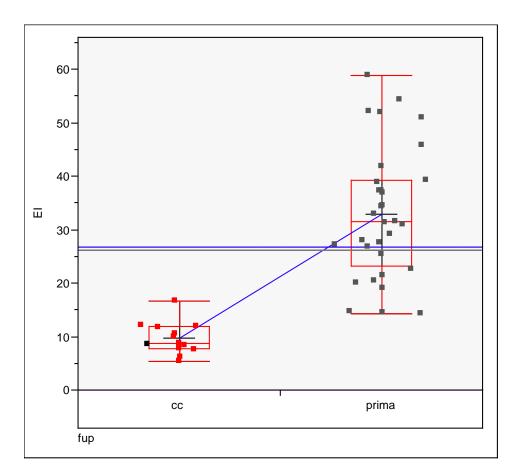
Indice Endometriosi

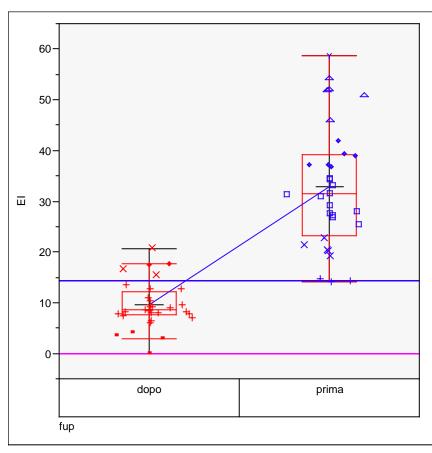
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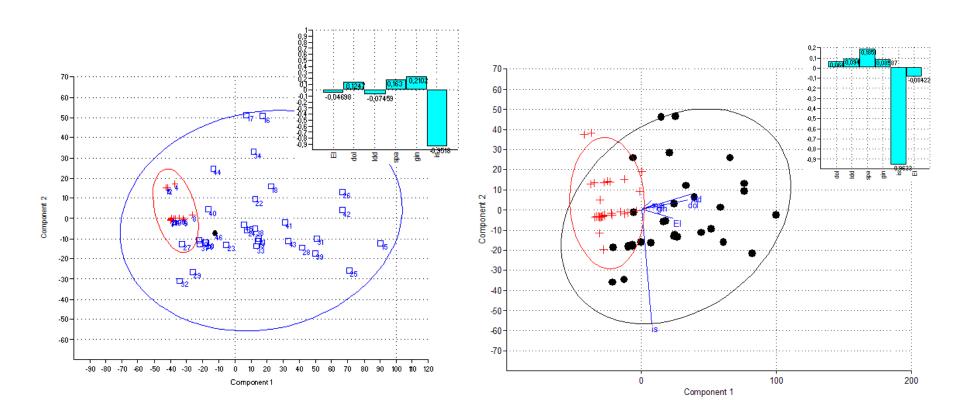
| | eta | EI | dol | ldd | spa | gin | is |
|------------|----------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| N | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Min | 30 | 5,34 | 3,16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 |
| Max | 46 | 16,56 | 23,34 | 6 | 3 | 12,31 | 41,67 |
| Mean | 34,3846 | 9,62769 | 8,33769 | 1,17846 | 1,46154 | 1,32538 | 37,8231 |
| Std. error | 1,23277 | 0,826885 | 1,55206 | 0,560268 | 0,351104 | 0,960197 | 2,02751 |
| Variance | 19,7564 | 8,8886 | 31,3155 | 4,0807 | 1,60256 | 11,9857 | 53,4402 |
| Stand. dev | 4,44482 | 2,98138 | 5,59602 | 2,02007 | 1,26592 | 3,46204 | 7,31028 |
| Median | 34 | 8,76 | 5,46 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 41,67 |
| Skewness | 1,19371 | 0,660069 | 1,35245 | 1,21494 | -0,148078 | 2,4384 | -1,13343 |
| Kurtosis | 0,863502 | -0,155528 | 1,17815 | -0,0312833 | -1,80069 | 4,82918 | -0,756213 |

IE - Indicazione

IE - Chirurgia

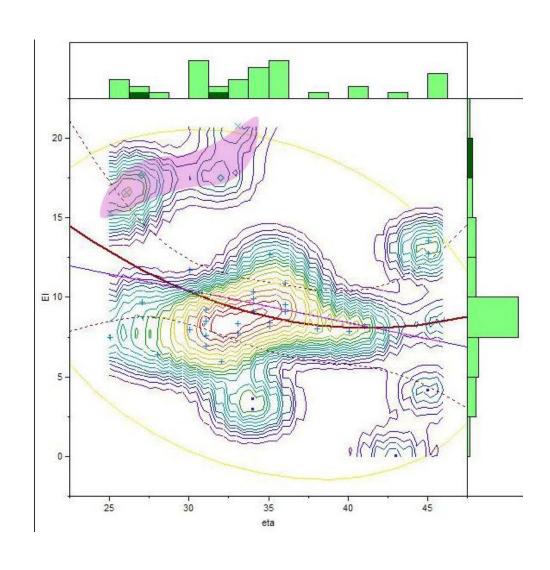




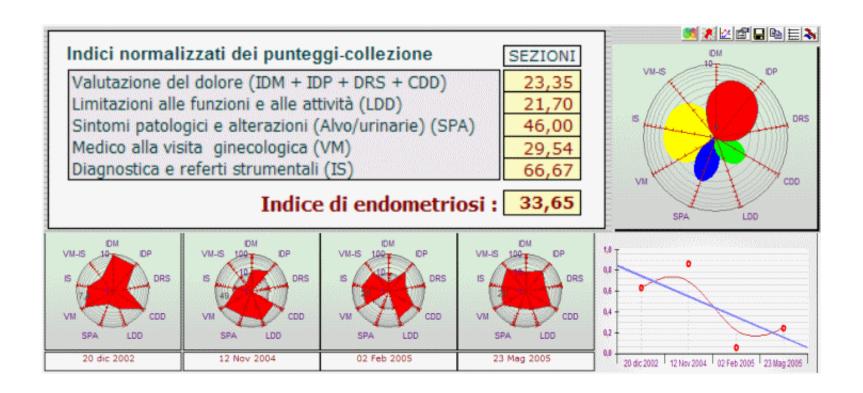


dopo la chirurgia le pazienti sono ricondotte dal nostro modello ad una distribuzione statisticamente confrontabile con quella di donne senza endometriosi

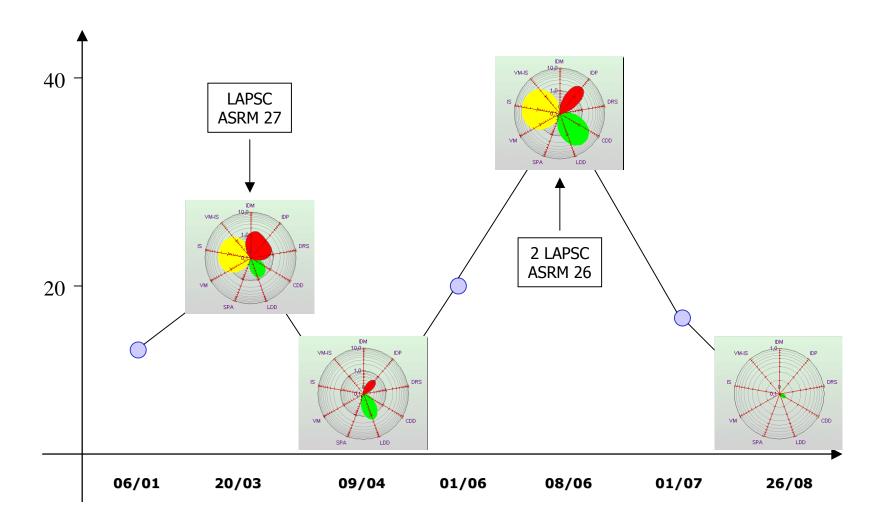
IE INDICATORE PROGNOSTTICO / INDICATORE STATO PATOLOGICO



Dal momento che i valori dell'IPE sono discreti ed oggettivi la loro analisi può determinare l'indicazione alla chirurgia, suggerire la recidiva di malattia e fornire sia dati prognostici che epidemiologici.



indicatore dello status patologico > recidiva



PREVENZIONE > CONOSCENZA PATOGENESI

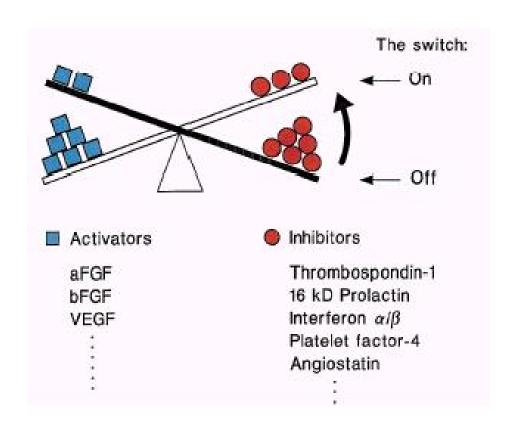
- "MALATTIA SCONOSCIUTA"
- PATOLOGIA "RICORRENTE" → RICERCA
- "NON ESISTE UNA CURA"

DIAGNOSI PRECOCE

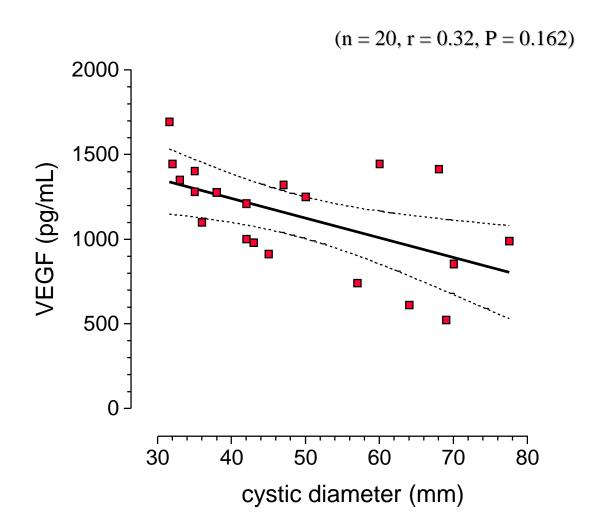
• IDENTIFICAZIONE DELLE PAZIENTI CON ENDOMETRIOSI A STADI I / II



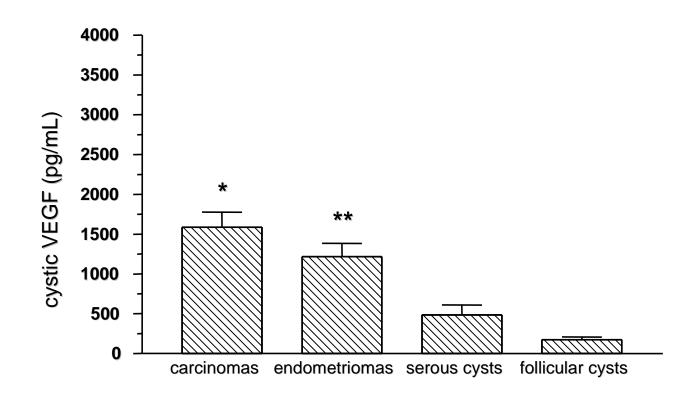
ENDOMETRIOSIS - ANGIOGENESIS



THE VEGF CYSTIC FLUID CONCENTRATIONS ARE INVERSELY CORRELATED TO THE DIAMETER OF THE OVARIAN ENDOMETRIOMATA

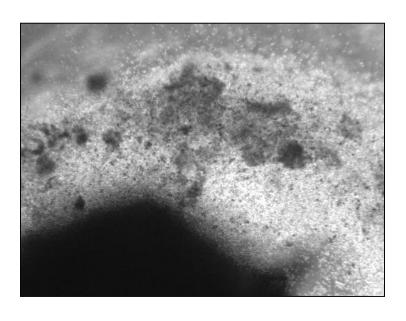


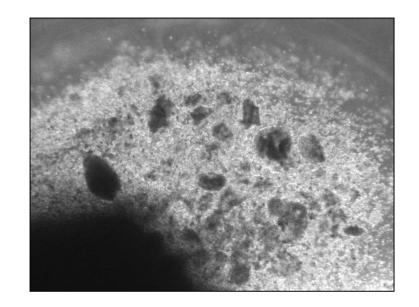
CYSTIC FLUID VEGF CONCENTRATIONS IN THE DIFFERENT HISTOLOGIC TYPES OF ADNEXAL MASSES

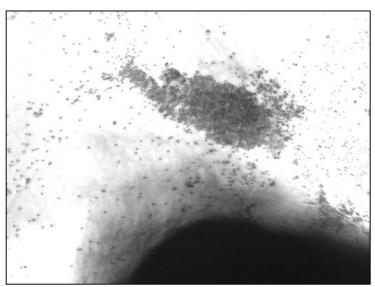


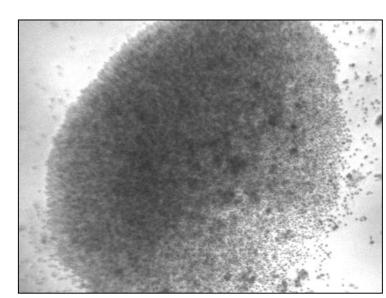
- * Adenocarcinomas vs. Follicular and vs. Serous cysts (P < 0.05)
- ** Endometriomas vs. Follicular and vs. Serous cysts (P < 0.05)

3D CULTURE OF ENDOMETRIUM TO MIMIC THE EARLY STEPS OF ITS GROWTH



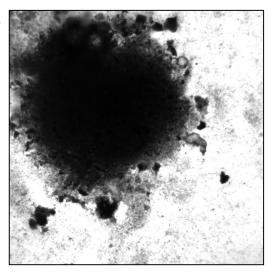




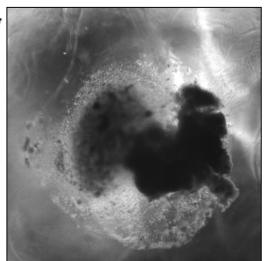


3D CULTURE OF ENDOMETRIUM TO MIMIC THE EARLY STEPS OF ITS GROWTH

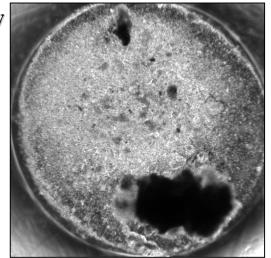
1st w



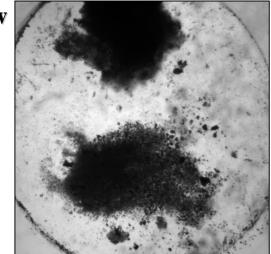
 $2nd \ w$



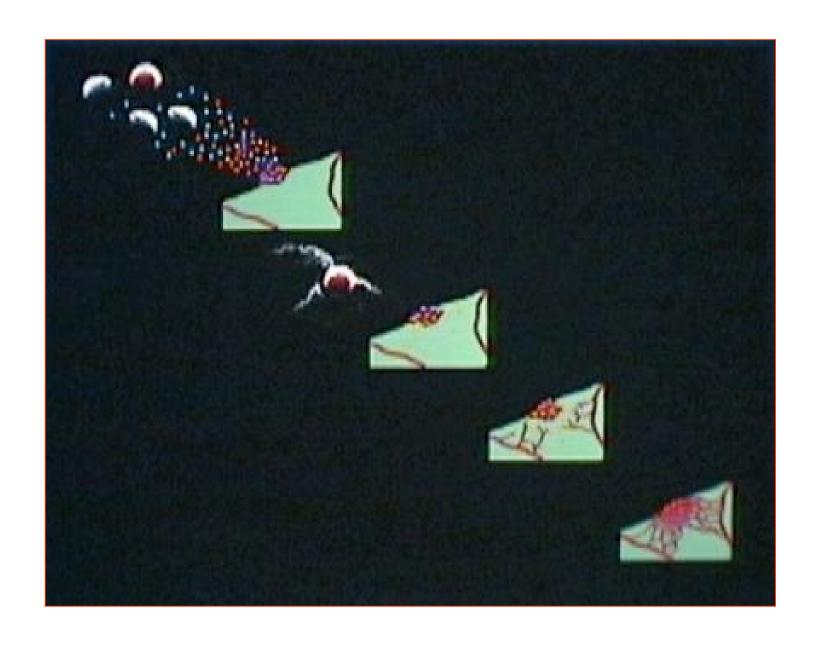
3rd w



4th w



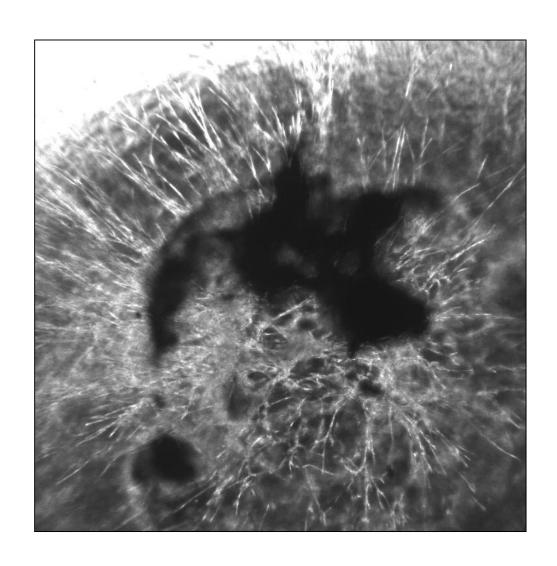
ENDOMETRIOSIS - ANGIOGENESIS



3D CULTURE OF ENDOMETRIUM TO MIMIC THE EARLY STEPS OF ITS GROWTH



3D CULTURE OF ENDOMETRIUM TO MIMIC THE EARLY STEPS OF ITS GROWTH



Recently, the induction of an angiogenic phenotype in human endometriotic cells has been shown pari passu by the establishment of their ability to implant.

The endometrial fragments, similarly to tumour metastases, follow two basic steps to generate endometriosis:

- 1. implantation
- 2. acquisition of a new blood supply through angiogenesis.

However, because of the inability to identify patients with early stage disease, mechanisms that control the implantation and growth of the ectopic implants remain elusive.

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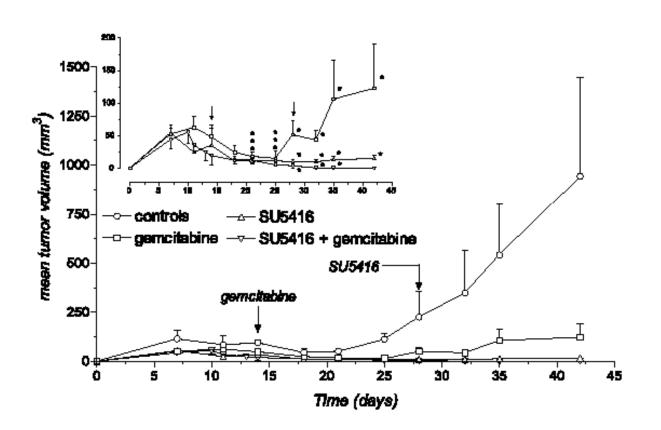
Three-dimensional in vitro culture of endometrial explants mimics the early stages of endometriosis

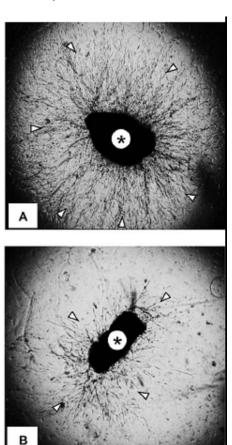
Alessandro Fasciani, M.D., a Guido Bocci, M.D., b Jing Xu, M.D., Ph.D., a Ryszard Bielecki, D.V.M., Ellen Greenblatt, M.D., Nicholas Leyland, M.D., and Robert F. Casper, M.D.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

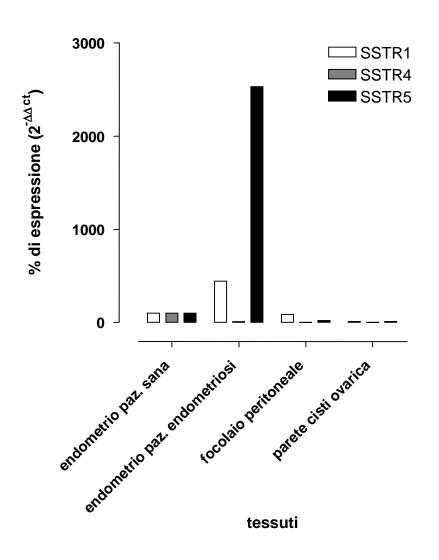
This system may recapitulate the very earliest development of endometriosis and may prove to be useful for screening new drug strategies for the treatment/prevention of endometriosis. Antiangiogenic versus cytotoxic therapeutic approaches to human pancreas cancer: an experimental study with a vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-2 tyrosine kinase inhibitor and gemcitabine

3.2. Inhibition of endothelial cell culture from placental blood vessel by SU5416





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Endometriosis and infertility

The Practice Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine

Birmingham, Alabama

quently, a clinical staging system is necessary to allow clinicians to communicate effectively regarding prognosis and treatment. The American Society for Reproductive Medicine revised classification system for endometriosis (ASRM 1996) is the most widely accepted staging system (19). Unfortunately, the staging system does not correlate well with a woman's chance of conception following therapy. This poor predictive ability is related to the arbitrary assignment of a point score for the observed pathology and the arbitrary cut-off points chosen to establish the stage of disease. The ASRM 1996 classification system might be enhanced by including a description of the morphologic subtype of disease or other biological markers (20). It is unlikely that any accurate staging system will be introduced until we have a better understanding of the pathophysiology of endometriosis-associated infertility.

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AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE REVISED CLASSIFICATION OF ENDOMETRIOSIS

| Patient | r's Name | | Date | |
|------------|--|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Stage I | (Minimal) - 1-5 I (Mild) - 6-15 II (Moderate) - 16-40 V (Severe) - 2-40 | | _ Laparotomy Pb | |
| Total | | Prognosis | | |
| PERITONEUM | ENDOMETRIOSIS | <1cm | 1-5cm | >3cm |
| 8 | Superficial | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| E | Deep | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| (%) | R Superficial | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| N. | Deep | + | 16 | 20 |
| OVARY | L Superficial | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| | Deep | 4 | 16 | 20 |
| | POSTERIOR | Partial | | Complete |
| | OBLITERATION | 4 | | 40 |
| | ADHESIONS | ₹1/3 Enclosure | 1/3-2/3 Enclosure | > 2/5 Enclosure |
| 2 | R Filmy | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| OVARY | Dense | - 4 | 8 | 16 |
| | L Filmy | f f | 2 | 4 |
| . 17 | Dense | 4 | 8 | 16 |
| | R Filmy | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| = | Dense | 4" | 8. | 16 |
| TUBE | i, Filmy | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| - | Dense | 4" | 8' | 16 |

"If the fimbriated end of the fallopian tube is completely enclosed, change the point assignment to 16.

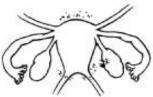
| Additional Endometriosis: | Associated Pathology: |
|---|---|
| To Be Used with Normal Tubes and Ovaries | To Be Used with Abnormal Tubes and/or Ovaries |
| (FO) (SQ) | |

EXAMPLES & GUIDELINES

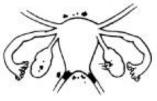
STAGE I (MINIMAL)



STAGE III (MODERATE)



| PERITONEUM | | | |
|------------------|------|-------|-----|
| Superficial Endo | - | 1-3cm | + 2 |
| R. OVARY | | | |
| Superficial Endo | - | < 1cm | 4.1 |
| Filmy Adhesions | - | < 1/3 | + 1 |
| TOTAL PO |)ENT | rs | - 4 |
| | | | |

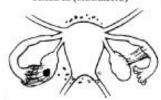


| PERITONEUM Deep Endo | | > 3cm | - 6 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| R. OVÁRY | | | |
| Superficial Endo | - | < 1cm | - 1 |
| Filmy Adhesions | - | < 1/3 | - 1 |
| L OVARY | | | |
| Superficial Endo | - | <1cm | - 1 |
| TOTAL PO | DINT: | S | 9 |



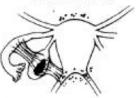
| PERITONEUM | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|------|
| Deep Endo | - >3cm | - 6 |
| CULDESAC Partial Obliterat | tion | - 4 |
| L OVARY Deep Endo | - 1-3cm | - 16 |
| TOTAL | | 26 |

STAGE III (MODERATE)



| PERITONEUM | | | |
|------------------|-----|-------|------|
| Superficial Endo | - | >3cm | -4 |
| R. TÜBE | | | |
| Filmy Adhesions | - | < 1/3 | - 1 |
| R. OVARY | | | |
| Filmy Adhesions | - | < 1/3 | - 1 |
| L TUBE | | | |
| Dense Adhesions | - | < 1/3 | - 16 |
| L OVARY | | | |
| Deep Endo | - | <1 cm | -4 |
| Dense Adhesions | - | < 1/3 | -4 |
| TOTAL PO | INT | 8 | 30 |

STAGE IV (SEVERE)



| PERITONEUM Superficial Endo | _ | > 3cm | |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------|--------|
| L OVARY | 700 | / Sciii | |
| Deep Endo | - | 1-3cm | . 32** |
| Dense Adhesions L TUBE | - | < 1/3 | . 8 |
| Dense Adhesions | - | (1/3 | -8" |
| TOTAL POI | NTS | | 52 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| Point assignment changed to | 1 |
|-----------------------------|---|
| "Point assignment doubled | |

STAGE IV (SEVERE)



| PERITONEUM Deep Endo | - | >3cm | - 6 | |
|-------------------------|---|-------|------|--|
| CULDESAC | | | | |
| Complete Obliteration | | | - 40 | |
| R. OVARY | | | 22 | |
| Deep Endo | - | 1-3cm | + 16 | |
| Dense Adhesions | - | <1/3 | - 4 | |
| L TUBE | | | | |
| Dense Adhesions | | >2/3 | - 16 | |
| L OVARY | | | | |
| Deep Endo | - | 1-3cm | - 16 | |
| Dense Adhesions | - | 32/3 | - 16 | |
| TOTAL PO | | 114 | | |
| | | | | |

Determination of the stage or degree of endometrial involvement is based on a weighted point system. Distribution of points has been arbitrarily determined and may require further revision or refinement as knowledge of the disease increases.

To ensure complete evaluation, inspection of the pelvis in a clockwise or counterclockwise fashion is encouraged. Number, size and location of endometrial implants, plaques, endometrionnas and/or adhesions are noted. For example, five separate 0.5cm superficial implants on the peritoneum (2.5 cm total) would be assigned 2 points. (The surface of the uterus should be considered peritoneum.) The severity of the endometriosis or adhesions should be assigned the highest score only for peritoneum, ovary, tube or cuidesac. For example, a 4cm superficial and a 2cm deep implant of the peritoneum should be given a score of 6 (not 8). A 4cm

deep endometrioms of the ovary associated with more than 3cm of superficial disease should be scored 20 (not 24).

In those patients with only one adenexa, points applied to disease of the remaining tube and ovary should be multipled by two. "Points assigned may be circled and totaled. Aggregation of points indicates stage of disease (minimal, mild, moderate, or severe).

The presence of endometriosis of the bowel, urinary tract, fallopian tube, vagina, cervix, skin etc., should be documented under "additional endometriosis." Other pathology such as tubal occlusion, leiomyomata, uterine anomaly, etc., should be documented under "associated pathology." All pathology should be depicted as specifically as possible on the sketch of pelvic organs, and means of observation (laparoscopy or laparotomy) should be noted.

Diagnosis of pelvic endometriosis with use of macroscopic versus histologic findings

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Objective: To obtain histologic confirmation of lesions suspected of endometriosis at laparoscopy.

Design: Prospective clinical study.

Setting: Patients in an academic hospital.

Patient(s): Women of reproductive age who complained of chronic pelvic pain.

Intervention(s): A total of 122 biopsies were obtained from 54 patients undergoing laparoscopy, after exclusion of other potential causes of pelvic pain.

Main Outcome Measure(s): Lack of consistency between laparoscopic and histologic diagnosis of endometriosis, in particular for minimal/mild stages.

Results: Endometriosis was confirmed by histology in 54% of the excised lesions. Diagnosis was more often confirmed among classic lesions than for all atypical lesions considered together. The histologic diagnosis of fibrosis was the most common among those biopsies, which lacked the presence of endometriosis. The revised American Fertility Association (AFS) scores before and after histologic confirmation differed significantly. In particular, 20 patients in either revised AFS class I or II were down-graded to stage 0. No single anatomical site turned out to be particularly prone to misdiagnosis at laparoscopy, in comparison to the other sites.

Conclusion(s): These results confirm the need of histologic confirmation to obtain a diagnosis of endometriosis.

However, the clinical impact of such findings remains a matter of debate. (Fertil Steril® 2005;84:12–5. ©2005 by American Society for Reproductive Medicine.)

Key Words: Pelvic endometriosis, diagnosis, laparoscopy, histology