Acute Gynaecological Emergencies Trends and Analyses

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Objective:

Majority of acute gynaecology services placed emphasis on early pregnancy complications. The aim of this audit is to identify the trend of all acute gynaecological presentations to a metropolitan hospital in Sydney.

Methods:

A retrospective audit of all women who presented to the emergency department with an acute gynaecological pathology was conducted over an 8 year period at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney which has an average of over 40,000 presentations per annum.

Legend:
- Early pregnancy
- Ruptured cysts
- Menorrhagia/dysmenorrhea
- PID
- Vulvaginal
- Miscellaneous
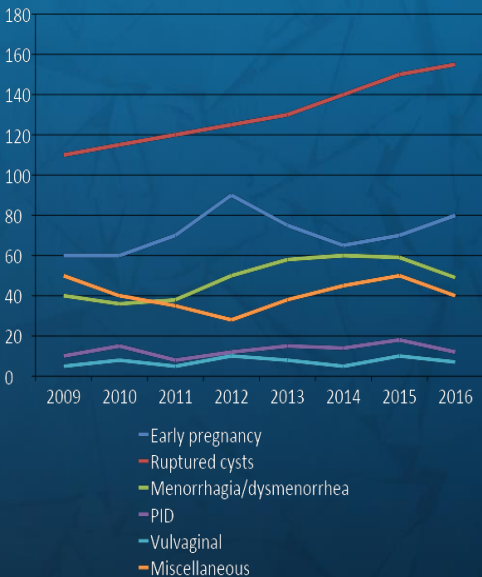
Results:

Preliminary findings of our ongoing study revealed an overall upward trend in acute gynaecological presentations over the study period, especially during the summer seasons. Early pregnancy complications and ruptured ovarian cysts remained the 2 most common indications for presentation, followed by menstrual related pathologies and vulva/vaginal conditions. While rates of early pregnancy complications remained stable, we identified an increase in incidence of ruptured ovarian cyst with diagnoses confirmed on imaging modalities. Majority were managed conservatively while 20% required surgical intervention. There were no statistically differences in rates of PID or sexual assaults over this study period.

Discussion:

The increase in acute gynaecological presentation is likely to be multi-factorial;one variable to note is related to the influx of hospital presentation from overseas travellers during summer seasons. The increased incidence of ruptured ovarian cysts may be due to better availability and access of diagnostic imaging services with trained sonographers and radiologists. Pending completion of our retrospective audit may reveal other variables that could help identify a change in local health care and public health policies.

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